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CONTENTS

1 March 1988

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 March Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Soviet Source Cited on Mideast Conference *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Feb]* 3
UN's Goulding Interviewed on Mideast Mission *[London AL-HAWADITH 19 Feb]* 3
Second Generation of Arab Satellites Viewed *[KUNA]* 6

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Messages to NATO Leaders *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
PLO's Bassam Abu Sharif on Shultz Tour *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 1 Mar]* 6
Commentary Views 'Failure' of Shultz Mission *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 7
PFLP-GC Claims Responsibility for Naval Clash *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 7
PLO Executive Committee Meets in Tunis *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 8
PLO Official on Relations With Syria, Jordan *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 23 Feb]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Chad

Presidential Decrees Create Military Regions 9

Egypt

Mubarak-Shultz Talks Termed 'Encouraging' 9
Editorial Urges Shultz To Watch 'Figures' *[AL-AHRAM 28 Feb]* 10
Mubarak, Abu Ghazalah Depart on Visit to Sudan 10
'Deterioration' Seen in Sudanese-Libyan Ties 10
Israeli Policy Condemned at OAU Meeting *[Cairo]* 10
'Differences' Arise Over Group's Indictment *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 26 Feb]* 11
AL-WAFD on Public's View *[24 Feb]* 12
State Attorney Interviewed *[AL-MUSAWWAR 26 Feb]* 13
Iraq's Ibrahim Departs After 4-Day Visit 15
'New Strategy' on Cooperation 15
Turkish Chief of Staff Ends Visit, Departs 16

Libya

Austrian Paper Interviews Al-Qadhdhafi *[Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG 29 Feb]* 16
Newspaper Reports Efforts To Reunite PLO *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 28 Feb]* 17
Sudan's Taj al-Din Departs After Talks 17
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Senegalese Envoy 17
Envoy Departs 17
Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Departs 27 Feb 18
Delegations Arrives for Jamahiriyah Anniversary 18
USSR Delegation 18
SFRY Assembly Delegation 18
Bulgarian Delegation 18

Morocco

Hassan Receives Tunisian Prime Minister 18
Former Minister Interviewed on Maghreb Unity *[London AL-MAJALLAH 17 Feb]* 18

Sudan

Egyptian President Arrives in Khartoum 1 Mar 20
Khartoum University Reopens 27 Feb 20
Sanadah Discusses OAU, Ethiopian Talks 20
Sanadah Meets British Parliamentarians 21
Ugandan Foreign Affairs Minister Arrives 21
Transfer of Ugandan Refugees 21
Zairian Official Arrives for Talks 28 Feb 21
Official Meets With Sanadah 21
Talks With Al-Mirghani 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Reportage on Visit by Moroccan Foreign Minister 23
Arrives 27 Feb 23
Received by Amir 23
Makes Statement, Departs 23

Kuwait

Soviet Envoy Briefs Sabah on U.S.-USSR Talks 23

PDRY

Communique Signed With Libyan Trade Union 23

Qatar

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Shaykh Al Thani *[19 Feb]* 24

Saudi Arabia

Moves Against Iranian Haj Pilgrims Denied 25

United Arab Emirates

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Abu Dhabi 29 Feb 25

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Receives Iraq's Ramadan 28 Feb 25
Ramadan Holds News Conference 26

IRAQ

UN Informed of Shelling; Reaction Threatened 27
'Punishing' of Iranians Urged 27
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 27
Communique No 3,040 28
3 Missiles Fired on Tehran 29
2 More Missiles Fired on Tehran 29
3d Volley of Missiles 30
More Missiles on Tehran 30
5th Attack Reported 30
Missiles Carry 'Revenge' 30

6th Missile Volley Launched 31
Shelling of Basra Continues 31
Sha'ban Denies U.S. Remarks on Gulf Missile *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 31
'Aziz Meets With Red Cross; POW's Discussed 32

ISRAEL

Shultz Continues Talks With Leaders on U.S. Plan 33
Shamir 'Satisfied' With Talks 33
Agrees to International 'Event' 33
'Recognizes' UN Resolution 242 33
Novik Assesses Prospects 33
Ben-Aharon on Bridging 'Gaps' 34
Shultz Leaves for London 35
No Change Seen in Husayn Stand 35
Over 50 Percent Support Plan *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Feb]* 35
Peres Said To Agree to Negotiation With PLO 35
Statement 'Made Clear' 36
Frayj Suggests BENELUX Arrangement in Mideast 36
MAPAM Secretary Granot Leaves for PRC Visit 36
Composition of Delegation to USSR Finalized 36
Rabin Favors Criticism of Politicians, Not IDF 36
Shomron Addresses Knesset on Qabatiyah Incident 36
IDF Spokesman Opposes Media Ban Proposal 36
Hanna Sinyurah, Fayiz Abu Rahmah Leave for FRG 37
More on Unrest, Related Events in Territories 37
Villagers: 'Liberated Areas' *[HA'ARETZ 1 Mar]* 37
Leaflets Call For Strikes 37
Exports Allowed to Egypt, E. Europe *[HATZOFE 28 Feb]* 38
'Spontaneous Boycott' by West Europe Feared *[THE JERUSALEM POST 29 Feb]* 38
28 Arab Labor Party Members Resign in Protest *['AL HAMISHMAR 28 Feb]* 38

JORDAN

Further Reportage on Shultz-Hasan Talks 29 Feb 39
Senior Officials, PLO Discuss Shultz Visit *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 27 Feb]* 39
Al-Rifa'i Receives UK's Mellor 29 Feb 39
Mellor on Mideast Peace Efforts 40
Al-Rifa'i Leaves for UK to Join King Husayn 40
USSR Religious Affairs Official Arrives 26 Feb 40
Meets Prince Hasan 41
Departs for Damascus 41

LEBANON

Amal Efforts at Higgins Dialogue Fail *[Jerusalem]* 42
Muslim Leader Denies Holding UNRWA Hostages *[VOM]* 42
Junblatt Receives Swedish Message on Hostages *[VOM]* 42
Amal's Beirut Branch Supports UN Bodies 42
Officials Get 'Urgent Invitation' to Syria *[VOL]* 42
Friday Prayers View Shultz Tour, Higgins *[IRNA]* 42
PFLP Claims 27 Feb Sea Attack on Israel *[VOL]* 43
Birri 'To Assassinate Opposition' in Amal *[RFL]* 43
Interior Minister Leaves for Damascus 27 Feb 43
Al-Rasi Returns 28 Feb 43
Warrant Issued for Attack on Ivorian Residence *[RFL]* 43
Explosive Device Dismantled in West Beirut *[RFL]* 43

SYRIA

Commentary Terms Shultz Ideas 'Inaccurate' 44
People's Assembly Elects New Speaker 29 Feb 44
Al-Ahmar Receives USSR Delegation 28 Feb 45

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Address to Ulema, Theologians 46
Nur Ahmad Nur Appointed Ambassador to Poland 54
Amin Visits USSR, Signs Economic Protocol *[cross-reference]* 54

Bangladesh

Pre-Election Violence Continues in Dhaka 29 Feb *[AFP]* 54
2 Killed in Dhaka Bombing *[AFP]* 55
Schools Ordered Closed *[Delhi]* 55
Ershad Declares 2-Day Holiday *[AFP]* 55
Over 3,000 Opposition Workers Join Ruling Party 56

India

Defense Budget Increased to 13,000 Crore Rupees 56
Spokesman Denies Sri Lankan Cease-Fire Report 56
2 'Dreaded' Punjab Terrorists Killed by Police 56

Iran

Khamene'i Vows 'Crushing Response' to Iraq 57
Khamene'i: Saddam, U.S. To 'Suffer Equally' 57
USSR Envoy Summoned Over Missile Attacks 58
Khamene'i Interviewed on UNSC Resolution 58
Further Reportage on Bombing of Tehran 59
Shelters Ordered Open 59
16 Civilians Killed in Tehran 59
Hospital Bombed; 5 Dead 59
'Huge Explosion' in Tehran 59
2d Explosion Reported 59
WIH Vows Revenge for Bombings 60
Red Alert, Blackout in Tehran 60
Planes Hit Residential Areas 60
More Residential Areas Hit 60
Baghdad Told To Evacuate 61
1 Civilian Killed 61
Communique No 3,127 61
Velayati Warns Mujahidin Leader Against U.S. 61
Further Reportage on Visit of Turkish Official 62
Meets With Musavi 62
Holds Talks With Velayati 62
Discusses Pipline With Aqazadeh 62
Turkish News Agency Opens 62
IRNA Interviews Turkey's Ozal on Eve of Visit 62
Reportage on Visit of Turkish Prime Minister 63
Arrives for Cooperation Talks 63
Received by Prime Minister 64
Addresses Dinner 64
1st Round of Talks With Musavi 65
2d Round of Talks Begins 65
Meets With Montazeri 66
Meets With Khamene'i 67
Letter on Pipeline Signed 67
Besharati's Pre-Sermon Speech at Friday Prayers 67

Pakistan

1 Killed, 3 Injured in Peshawar Bomb Blast 70
Efforts Made To Avert Geneva Talks Collapse 70
Cabinet Views Afghan Issue; Ratifies Iran Pact 71
Prime Minister Views Next Afghan Talks 71
Curfew Reimposed in Karachi Area 28 Feb 72

Sri Lanka

AFP: Tamils Attempt Unilateral Negotiations 72
Indian Envoy on Reported Contacts *[Delhi]* 72
Indian Envoy Denies 'Cease-Fire' Report *[Delhi]* 73

1 March Middle East and South Asia Review

LD011413 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq pounded Tehran with 13 surface-to-surface missiles during the night of 29 February and morning of 1 March. The bombardment, which was reported in a series of announcements over Voice of the Masses and Baghdad radios, is the first such Iraqi missile strike on Tehran. The first three launchings were announced in a communique which stressed that the attack was in retaliation for Iran's continued "crimes" against Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, adding that it would continue throughout the night until Tehran was "demolished."

The communique lauded the Iraqi military industries which manufactured the long-range missiles used in the strikes. Subsequent Iraqi coverage included a military spokesman's statement containing a warning that the missile bombardment will continue "in the coming nights." In a message to the United Nations cited by INA, Iraq asserted that it was "compelled to decisively reply to the criminal murderers in Iran through the means which suit the Iranian regime's premeditated criminal acts." Iraq's action came after Iranian missile and artillery bombardments had inflicted a "large number" of civilian casualties, the Iraqi message noted. The agency also cited an Iraqi press editorial which contended that "the night of missiles" will compel the Iranian rulers to reconsider their plans for "expansion and aggression" against Iraq.

Initial reports by IRNA referred to air raids on Tehran by Iraqi warplanes, though the agency subsequently acknowledged that the strikes were by missiles. IRNA cited initial estimates that 16 people were killed and "dozens" of others wounded in the first wave of attacks, noting that further "huge" explosions were heard in the capital during the night. The casualties reportedly included 5 dead and 50 wounded at a maternity hospital. A military statement cited by the agency warned Iraqi civilians to protect their lives by evacuating Baghdad, and Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i likewise stated that Iran will respond with a "strong blow."

Khamene'i's remarks were made in a Tehran television interview during which he also warned that "all paths to a political settlement will be closed" if the UN Security Council adopts the draft resolution on the war which it is currently considering. "The United States and other powers which are hypocritically talking of an amicable settlement will, in fact, close all avenues for an amicable rapprochement with such a step," he contended.

Shultz Mission

Shultz-Shamir Talks—Reporting on the outcome of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's talks with Secretary of State George Shultz 29 February, IDF radio disclosed that Shamir is now prepared to recognize UN Resolution 242 as a platform for political negotiations. However, the report indicated that Shamir does not necessarily interpret the resolution as containing the principle of territories for peace. The radio added that Shamir is also prepared to have a "symbolic opening ceremony" for peace talks with the participation of the two superpowers, but that he is still opposed to the international conference format.

In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, the director general of Shamir's office stressed that Shultz has put no pressure on Shamir as "pressure just doesn't exist in this situation." Shultz expressed "a lot of support and admiration" for Shamir, and emphasized that he will do nothing that will harm Israel, the official added. Another spokesman for Shamir noted that the talks were "very friendly" and that the prime minister was "satisfied" with them, according to IDF radio.

Arab Reportage—On George Shultz' second round of talks with Jordanian leaders in Amman, an Amman television report said the two sides exchanged views in an atmosphere of "frankness and clarity," adding that they welcomed the continuation of Jordanian-U.S. dialogue as part of the search for a "just and comprehensive" settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Among other Arab comment on the Shultz mission, the Egyptian ambassador to Washington described the secretary of state's talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as "successful and encouraging," according to MENA. On the other hand, a Damascus radio commentary claimed that the ideas proposed by Shultz were "mostly unspecific and inaccurate," adding that such "unfair" proposals cannot lead to a comprehensive and just peace. For the PLO's part, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio broadcast a commentary which accused the United States of being either unable or unwilling to comprehend "the facts crystallized by the fuming Palestinian uprising." U.S. envoys will continue to experience "failure" as long as they do not talk directly with the PLO, the radio said.

Israel: Situation in Occupied Territories

A resident of an Arab village near Nabulus was killed when IDF soldiers fired to disperse rioters, IDF radio announced. Another Arab died in a hospital of injuries received during disturbances in the Janin area on 25 February. In the Gaza Strip, security forces arrested three people suspected of having been wounded during an attempt to run over IDF foot patrol soldiers, the radio noted.

On the issue of banning the media from areas of unrest, IDF radio cited Prime Minister Shamir's remark that he does not categorically reject the possibility of closing the territories to the media, and he noted that reporters are currently barred from many places in the world. According to MA'ARIV, the

head of the IDF Central Command has decided to prevent journalists from entering "trouble spots in Judaea and Samaria" on Fridays, when riots often occur.

Lebanon

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri called on Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to dispatch a special envoy to investigate recent incidents in southern Lebanon, Beirut radio reported. Birri said he will abide by the envoy's findings, and he maintained that recent kidnappings in Lebanon were all part of an attack on Iran and the Islamic Revolution.

In another development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian leaders have invited Birri and other Muslim leaders to Damascus to discuss ideas on political reform presented by Secretary of State Shultz during his recent visit to Syria.

Afghanistan

The Afghan people and authorities will "never agree to a government being constructed for Afghans in Islamabad or in London, and then exported to Afghanistan," President Najibullah asserted in a 28 February speech broadcast by Kabul radio. He criticized the mujahidin's government-in-exile as a "puppet, artificial, one-sided, and foreign-made" body, viewing it as unrepresentative of the refugees and even of the armed groups opposing his own government.

While armed resistance groups inside Afghanistan are "respected" by the Afghan authorities and "naturally enjoy a priority right in the future broad-based coalition government," they have not been allowed to participate in the transitional government set up by the "extremist" groups residing in Pakistan, he maintained. As for Pakistan's support for the creation of an interim government as a condition for signing the Geneva Accords, Najibullah said this indicates the Pakistani authorities' "distortions and open destructiveness toward the Geneva talks process."

The Afghan leader also reaffirmed his government's commitment to uphold Islam, noting its decision to permit the formation of an Islamic Party and to create an Islamic Consultative Council which will advise the president on "all affairs" on the basis of Islamic principles and law. Seats will be reserved on this council for clergymen who are still in the ranks of the opposition, he added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Soviet Source Cited on Mideast Conference

PM291717 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Feb 88 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Soviet Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Reject the Holding of Small-Scale International Peace Conference or Discussion of Autonomy Plan for Palestinians"]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union has stated its determination that talks on the Middle East issue and the Gulf war will loom large in the meetings to be held by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, during his forthcoming visit to Moscow. Soviet official sources in Moscow informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in a telephone conversation yesterday that during the Washington meetings the U.S. side avoided touching on the Middle East issue and the Gulf war.

Reliable sources within Soviet decisionmaking circles added: "The aim in focusing on this burning issue is to reconcile the legitimate interests of the Palestinians and the Arabs with Israel under the umbrella of an international conference."

And these sources pointed out that "the Soviet Union is of the opinion that in the last 2 months since the Washington summit meeting the situation in the occupied territories has deteriorated, and it is illogical for the Americans to avoid dealing seriously with the issue."

They reaffirmed their opposition to U.S. ideas submitted to Arab leaders, who rejected them, and said that what is required of the Americans is a more comprehensive view taking into account Palestinian rights, but not under the slogan of autonomy.

The sources showed disapproval of a small-scale international meeting to be held next April to settle the Palestinian issue, and said: "We do not agree to any small-scale meeting because it would subsequently lead to small-scale results, which would be dangerous."

Concerning the trips made by three Soviet delegates—Petrovskiy, who visited Tehran; Sytenko, who visited Tunis; and Grinevskiy, who visited Baghdad—they said that they handed letters to the officials from Soviet leader Gorbachev, regarding the Soviet position on the Afghan question, the Gulf war, and the occupied territories.

Concerning the trip by Vladimir Polyakov, Soviet Foreign Ministry Middle Eastern department director, to Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, they said that the trip is linked to the U.S. secretary of state's forthcoming visit to Moscow.

According to statements made to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by diplomats residing in the Soviet capital, Soviet moves in the region have come in response to American trips to the region. In less than a month, trips have been made by Philip Habib, Armacost, and Richard Murphy, and even Shultz is unable to review the viewpoints of the leaders of the region's states in the way he wants.

The Soviet official conveyed to Arab officials he met in Damascus, Amman, and Cairo the Soviet position on the explosive situation in the occupied territories. Moreover, they told him their views on proposed settlements and ways to end the continuing suffering of the Palestinian Arab people. [passage omitted]

UN's Goulding Interviewed on Mideast Mission

PM291613 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 19 Feb 88 pp 24, 26, 27

[Interview with Marrack Goulding, UN assistant secretary general for political affairs, by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not specified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: When a spokesman for the UN secretary general announced that you would return to the [Middle East] region, he said that your mission would include informing the states of the secretary general's "activities" relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict. What are these activities?

Goulding: These activities are already mentioned in the secretary general's report to the Security Council and were also discussed during consultations preceding the report. The report itself was based on the results of the mission entrusted to me by the secretary general. During that mission I visited Israel and the occupied territories, but not the other parties concerned. I believe that a number of the people I will meet with might raise questions about my visit to the occupied territories.

AL-HAWADITH: But do you actually bring any ideas about ways of advancing matters?

Goulding: Yes. I bring some views, since the secretary general has some ideas. It is wrong, however, to give the impression that I am heading for the region with fixed proposals made by the secretary general. I am not taking with me any integrated proposal, but the secretary general has in mind various ideas about how to make progress regarding two issues: improving the living conditions of the people in the occupied territories, and the main issue, which concerns activating negotiations so that a just and permanent settlement can be achieved. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Are the ideas you will present to the Arab parties the same as those you carried to the Israelis?

Goulding: Ideas develop and the situation is always developing. Many things have occurred over the last month. I would like to point out that my visit will not necessarily exclude Israel, since it is possible that I may

visit Israel during this tour. But the main objective of the visit is to conclude consultations with the five parties which I did not consult during my first visit.

AL-HAWADITH: One of the ideas included by the secretary general in his report urged the international community to make urgent efforts within the Security Council. He said that he intended to "actively explore with council members, especially the five permanent members, the possibility of breaking the freeze in the peace process." Did the secretary general explore that possibility? And what was the response of the five states in particular?

Goulding: The secretary general held a number of rounds of talks during the discussion of his report at the Security Council. I believe the five states' reactions were clear during the discussion in the council. Four of them responded positively. As for the fifth, its response was different.

AL-HAWADITH: I think you mean the United States. Do you know what reservations the United States voiced regarding the secretary general's report?

Goulding: This was made clear when the U.S. ambassador explained his veto on the draft resolution. He referred to two elements: First, that the Security Council had on more than one occasion declared its stand on the Israeli practices in the occupied territories, therefore the United States does not believe that adopting another resolution will be of any benefit. Second, that adopting any resolution at this stage might hamper efforts being made to activate negotiations.

AL-HAWADITH: There is information that the first U.S. reservation about the report itself is attributable to two points: First, the report demands for Israel to accept the implementation of the fourth Geneva agreement concerning the protection of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories. Second, the report urges an active UN role in search of a peace process. According to your information, are these two reservations correct?

Goulding: The first reservation you refer to is a surprise to me, since the United States did vote in favor of a resolution stressing that the fourth Geneva agreement applies to the situation in the occupied territories. As for the second point, it is true that there is a kind of reserve and silence on the part of the Americans regarding it. I would like to say here that the secretary general does not see himself as competing with the United States. Of course he realizes that no progress can be made without a major contribution on the part of the United States, for reasons we all know. The secretary general feels that the attempt to exclude the United Nations is a mistaken attitude that lacks wisdom.

This is for two reasons: First, the overwhelming majority of UN member states and the overwhelming majority of the parties directly concerned want the United Nations to play a role. Second, experience over the past 40 years has proved the United Nations' ability to help in negotiations and in implementing subsequent agreements.

AL-HAWADITH: How do American officials feel regarding the secretary general's decision to send you once again to the region? Did they welcome the idea when you met with them in Washington? Did they tell you: We do not like what you are doing and it is better that you remain at a standstill?

Goulding: No. No one told me: "We do not like what you are doing" or "We want you to remain at a standstill." And the reports in the Israeli press last week which claimed that U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters had told me not to go are both false and fabricated. In fact I did not meet with Ambassador Walters. Anyhow, I have not sensed from any American party that it was wrong for me to embark on the visit. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Until now the United States has not expressed its desire for a role for the United Nations, or its clear support for the convening of an international conference. Therefore, some think that the United States must be angry that the United Nations is promoting its initiative and the Secretariat General is making moves in this direction, especially now that Washington is concentrating on the so-called American initiative.

Goulding: We are pleased that they are not angry. I personally have not sensed any indication of anger on the part of the United States regarding the secretary general's decision to send me once again to the region. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Does the UN position indicate the need to establish an independent Palestinian state?

Goulding: The General Assembly has issued resolutions calling for establishing a Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Is the idea of autonomy one of the ideas which the Secretariat General wishes to explore and work toward?

Goulding: Yes. The secretary general is willing to discuss transitional arrangements with the parties concerned. I think he will be careful not to use the word "autonomy" because this term carries an implicit meaning that might make the idea unacceptable to some of the parties concerned; but yes to transitional arrangements. The United Nations can help in such arrangements.

AL-HAWADITH: And to clarify the record, is it the secretary general's position that negotiations should be based on Resolutions 242 and 338?

Goulding: The secretary general's position is that any settlement should be based on Resolutions 242 and 338 in addition to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

AL-HAWADITH: Only the United States rejects the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Did you sense any willingness to change that stand in view of developments?

Goulding: I hope so. But shouldn't this question be put to the Americans?

AL-HAWADITH: And what about the initiative made by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in which he proposed that the Secretary Council's five permanent member states discuss ways of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict? This proposal emerged suddenly and then faded to some extent. Is such a proposal workable?

Goulding: I am not certain whether the Soviet proposal has faded. In fact, Shevardnadze presented it again recently. This proposal can be implemented. In actual fact it is desirable, providing that the five states accept it. And there is a big possibility of the secretary general being able to get the five states to discuss the Gulf war. I understand that he wishes to see the five states working together on the Arab-Israeli conflict. But this requires the five states' agreement to that. It is known that one of these states is keeping silent regarding this idea.

AL-HAWADITH: Of course you mean the United States. Did you sense during your talks with the Americans any willingness to accept the idea, especially as it is similar to the idea proposed by the secretary general in his report?

Goulding: I would like to believe so. But I cannot say that this will actually take place.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you in the Secretariat General believe that the United Nations is the best place to discuss the Middle East problem?

Goulding: This is the secretary general's opinion: Negotiations must be held under UN auspices.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the Secretariat General's opinion of the U.S. position that prefers to sponsor a settlement alone without allowing the United Nations (through the use of the veto right in the Security Council) to play a sponsorship role?

Goulding: In the secretary general's view the American veto does not mean that he should sit with his hands tied. My dispatch to the region and the consultations he intends to conducts upon his return from Africa show that he is active in carrying out the missions assigned to him by the General Assembly and the Security Council in this regard. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: During your visit to Israel did you sense any indications you might consider encouraging regarding the efforts you intend to make in the Middle East?

Goulding: The encouraging thing that I sensed was that the two Israeli ministers with whom I held talks agreed that the problem is a political one that requires a political solution. What has happened over the past 2 months has proved the impracticality of the old idea, namely that security and order must be restored first and a political settlement can then be discussed. Besides, half the Israeli Government is in favor of convening an international conference under UN auspices. The Israeli idea of the nature of the conference is different from that of the Arab parties.

However, it is encouraging that a major sector, which has great influence on Israeli public opinion, is in favor of convening an international conference. We must build on this. We must also try to prompt the entire Israeli Government to accept the international conference. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Let us talk about another initiative among the new initiatives proposed for a solution to the crisis, namely the initiative made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Does the Secretariat General believe that the five ideas proposed in Mubarak's initiative or some of them have any prospect of being implemented? And can the Secretariat General use any of the five ideas in the efforts you are currently making?

Goulding: President Mubarak has made it clear that the five ideas are linked and cannot be divided. Since the secretary general supports the idea that the Israelis should treat the Palestinians well, and since he supports the convening of an international conference, he considers President Mubarak's initiative interesting.

AL-HAWADITH: And can this initiative be implemented?

Goulding: Washington's and Tel Aviv's reactions to it are not encouraging.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the idea of stopping the uprising for a period of 6 months? Does the Secretariat General consider it a good one?

Goulding: If it meant that stopping violence for 6 months would lead to an international conference being convened, we would then consider it a brilliant idea. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Perhaps you can tell me about your stop in Lebanon, especially as the Lebanese are expected to tell you: We have our own problems, our territories are still occupied, and although UNIFIL has played an effective part, the United Nations has not yet succeeded in securing a complete Israeli withdrawal. So what do you bring for the Lebanese?

Goulding: The encouraging thing about this visit is that Lebanon has a unified stand recorded in a paper explaining the Lebanese position on the convening of an international conference. The Lebanese Government gave me

a copy of that stand during my visit to Lebanon last June and also when I talked with the Lebanese leaders last December. Both President Amin al-Jumayyil and [Acting] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss approved the paper. The paper contains a clear stand on which there are no problems.

In brief, the stand is in favor of convening an international conference. Lebanon expects itself to be a party to such a conference. Lebanon does not want the Lebanese problem as such, that is, the occupation of south Lebanon, to be broached at the international conference. Lebanon wants Resolution 425 to be implemented and such implementation to be given precedence. It does not want to delay the implementation of this resolution until an international conference is held. [passage omitted].

Second Generation of Arab Satellites Viewed

LD261912 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Dubayy, 26 Feb (KUNA)—The board of directors of the Arab Organization for Space Telecommunications has concluded its meetings, which lasted 4 days and which were attended by delegations from the nine countries that constitute the board.

Sources from the meetings told KUNA today that they discussed the services given by the current Arab satellite as well as extending the period of using the current generation of satellites, scheduled to end in 1992, until 1995, i.e., for 3 more years, in order to save additional funds to enable the organization to buy the second generation and launch it in 1995.

The board of directors also discussed the fiscal issues concerning the final account of 1987 and the balance of the current year.

The sources said that the volume of daily transmissions of Arab satellites [as received] is 3 hours, that daily reception is 8 hours, and that 15 Arab countries now have ground stations for receiving satellite transmissions, including the GCC countries.

The Arab satellites [as received] are currently relaying sports, religious, political programs, and major Arab events and are about to expand the service of exchanging television programs in cultural and scientific fields among the Arab countries.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Messages to NATO Leaders

JN010943 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on 29 February asked the ambassadors of France, Britain, Greece, and Spain in Tunis to convey urgent messages to their governments on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' current tour of the Middle East.

In his messages 'Arafat emphasizes that one of the aims of the present U.S. diplomatic move is to abort the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory. He draws the attention of the European leaders of NATO who are slated to meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Brussels on 2 March to the bad effects of the U.S. diplomatic offensive on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish an independent state.

In a statement to AFP yesterday, the Palestinian leader said the U.S. President will try in Brussels to obtain the support of his European allies or their agreement in principle to his Middle East plans and policies.

Speaking at a press conference in Tunis on 27 February, 'Arafat asserted it was in the EEC's interest to swiftly embark on an initiative to find a solution to the Palestine question.

PLO's Bassam Abu Sharif on Shultz Tour

JN011027 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Mar 88 pp 24, 19

[By Wafa' 'Abd al-Hamid]

[Text] A senior Palestinian official has said that the U.S. Administration's stand is still hostile to the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights. He said this stand is illustrated by this administration's unconditional and absolute support for Israel and its bestial, repressive practices in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the region, Bassam Abu Sharif, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, told AL-DUSTUR in a telephone call that the U.S. Administration has lost its credibility in the Middle East as a result of its stand toward the Palestinian people and their rights. He said that while it talks about human rights, the U.S. Administration rejects this completely with regard to the Palestinian people.

He said: In fact, it became a partner in the crime being committed against the Palestinian people when it vetoed a draft resolution presented to the UN Security Council for protecting the Palestinian people against the unprecedented racist Zionist campaigns of repression.

Abu Sharif added: Nevertheless, out of its concern for the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East, the PLO is ready to participate in an international conference to negotiate this peace and its bases with the participation of the Israeli Government, the parties concerned, and the five permanent UN Security Council member states to guarantee the main condition for a just peace in the region, which is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Abu Sharif said the U.S. Administration's current stand is like carrying dead ideas for dealing with a live and changing situation. This stand constitutes an obstacle to just peace. The U.S. Administration cannot play a positive and constructive role in this context unless it establishes balanced relations between the two major parties to the dispute. He said: Despite all pains we are suffering as a result of the unprecedented Zionist tyranny and repression, we affirm our struggle against the occupation will continue unceasingly, wave after wave, until we end the occupation and expel the last Israeli soldier from our beloved holy land.

He added: The effects and repercussions of our uprising, which this week entered its 4th month, will not be confined to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We are confident the U.S. Administration will, after a while, pant after events and bite its fingers with remorse. We will not accept any solution which does not end the occupation and enable the Palestinian people to determine their destiny by themselves.

Abu Sharif said the PLO has not changed its stand on holding talks with the U.S. Administration on the Palestine question, referring in this regard to the relevant PLO statement. He said the PLO has informed Shultz through Arab and foreign channels that it is ready to meet with him or any other U.S. official through any delegation formed by the PLO in any Arab or foreign country or even in the United States itself. However, the PLO has so far received no response from the U.S. Administration.

Commentary Views 'Failure' of Shultz Mission

JN292327 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1809 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Station commentary: "The Decisive Clarity of the Palestinian Stand and the Deviousness and Vagueness of the U.S. Stand"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of the great people of Palestine, sons of our glorious Arab nation: World political observers, who follow our great and blessed uprising and the intensive political moves around this uprising, agree that the speed with which the United States presented its latest proposals through the Secretary of State George Shultz shows naivete, to say the least, and shows a great deal of wickedness and deviousness, to say the most.

The fact is that the U.S. Administration, which sent a group of envoys to the region, last of whom was George Shultz himself, was not able to comprehend the facts crystallized by the fuming Palestinian uprising, or, shall we say, this U.S. Administration did not want to understand these facts. The evidence for this is that the full boycott of the U.S. secretary of state by the Palestinians inside the occupied Palestine is one of the self-evident facts that the Americans should have expected had they been serious in understanding and dealing with the Palestinian facts logically, unequivocally, and in a straightforward way.

Moreover, Shultz' failure in the Arab capitals he visited and may visit is part of the self-evident facts the Americans should have anticipated had they been actually serious. For the flattery the Americans receive from here or there cannot hide the picture of the explosive reality, which our heroic uprising is creating in the entire region.

It is clear that the wrong path that was taken by the Americans, through their many envoys, is what led them to this failure and what will lead them to future failure if they continue on the same path. The wrong path is that the Americans, in their attempts to understand the events and deal with the facts, did not go directly to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the leader of their struggle, and the party that holds all the cards on the Palestinian question.

Yes, the Americans, with every boldness, explicitness, and frankness, did not go directly to the PLO. They chose to go through backdoors and secondary routes and to adopt a devious and vague method.

Everybody knows this U.S. conduct which led them to failure and which will lead them to even more failure if they continue the same way is not a result of Zionist pressure as they might possibly claim. The whole world knows that Zionists of all levels rushed to the United States asking for help and to save them from the suffocating predicament into which the blessed Palestinian uprising had put them. Those who seek help and assistance from others cannot exert pressure.

However, the way before the United States is now clear if it is in fact serious and if it wants to truly understand the explosive Palestinian facts and deal with them logically. The way is to go directly to the PLO first and foremost and to go now before it is too late.

Do the Americans really wish to take the right path or will they continue their vagueness, deviousness, and maneuvering? Until they make up their minds and determine the direction of the winds, the uprising is continuing and escalating and the volcano is erupting.

PFLP-GC Claims Responsibility for Naval Clash

JN291228 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1155 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following:

A PFLP-GC military source has stated the following:

The PFLP-GC claims responsibility for the naval combat task carried out by the Martyr Lieutenant Ahmad al-Haj unit from the night of Saturday 27 February until Sunday evening 28 February 1988. The PFLP-GC military source said the PFLP-GC will issue subsequent statements giving the details of the Martyrs of the Uprising operation. God is with us. Together along the path of liberating the land and man.

PLO Executive Committee Meets in Tunis

JN272109 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1828 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee is continuing its meetings which began in Tunis last night under brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The foremost topic the Executive Committee will discuss is how to escalate the heroic uprising in the occupied homeland, particularly escalating the national confrontation against the occupation forces in affirmation of the objectives for which the uprising erupted. The objectives emphasize the need to end occupation and regain the legitimate Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The Executive Committee will also discuss a number of reports on new international moves to find a solution to the Palestine question. The reports also deal with following up the move in the region being made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

PLO Official on Relations With Syria, Jordan

JN271139 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Feb 88 p 9

[Basimah Nafadi dispatch]

[Text] Bahrain—Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, also known as Abu al-Hawl, official in charge of security in the PLO, has expressed hope Syria will agree to receive a Palestinian delegation very soon to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to put the final touches guaranteeing support for the popular uprising in the occupied territory. He added that Syria plays a basic role in the region and in resolving the Middle East problem. He said that out of the spirit of the uprising, the PLO can establish clear relations with Syria.

Abu al-Hawl affirmed it is in the interest of Syria, the Palestinians, and all Arabs for interaction to exist between Damascus and the PLO. In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, he said the PLO has been extending its hand to Syria for a long time. He added that, despite the mediation efforts exerted by the brothers in Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab states, in addition to the USSR, to achieve reconciliation between the PLO and Syria, all these efforts have not produced any progress in this regard.

Abu al-Hawl said the Arabs are in need of a charter of honor to define the way of dealing with the uprising and how to escalate it. This matter, he added, will help the Arabs avoid existing differences and bring their viewpoints closer.

Abu al-Hawl asserted the PLO concern to continue coordination and clear cooperation with Jordan. He described the present Jordanian-Palestinian relations as good. He expressed hope these relations will continue and progress now and in the future.

Abu al-Hawl reiterated the firm Soviet stand in championing Arab issues in general and the Palestinian issue in particular. He also affirmed that the Palestinian leadership inside the occupied territory cannot be separated from the PLO. He noted that the national Palestinian unity, which was achieved in the [PNC] Algiers session was positively reflected in the occupied territory through the unified leadership of the uprising.

Abu al-Hawl emphasized that the PLO's decision to Palestinian leaderships in the occupied territory calls for not meeting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The Palestinian demands will be presented to Shultz in a memorandum to be sent to him, Abu al-Hawl said.

Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid said the principle of land in exchange for peace can be a topic of discussion within an international peace conference to be attended by all concerned parties, including the PLO. He said the popular uprising has restored to the Arab masses their pride in the Palestinian people's struggle.

Chad

Presidential Decrees Create Military Regions

AB261315 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] El Hadj Hissein Habre, the president of the Republic, in his capacity as supreme commander of the Armed Forces and minister of national defense, veterans, and war victims, has just signed four decrees on the creation of military regions within the Chadian Armed Forces and also on the appointment of officials to some posts of responsibility within our young Army.

The first decree is No 14; it concerns the creation of the Third Military Region within the FANT.

Article 1—A military region to be known as the Third Military Region has been created within the FANT, effective 1 January 1988. This Third Military Region consists of the Prefectures of Salamat, Guera, and Bassa, corresponding to Military Zones No 5, No 6, and No 11. Its command post is (?Mongo).

Article 3 [number as heard]—The minister of national defense, veterans, and war victims is charged with the execution of the present decree, which will be recorded, but which in view of its confidential character will be neither communicated nor published except for administrative purposes.

The second presidential decree—No 15—concerns the creation of two military regions within the FANT. The president of the Republic, head of state, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and supreme commander of the FANT, decrees:

Article 1—Two military regions have been created within the FANT with effect from 1 February 1988.

Article 2—The Fourth Military Region consists of Military Zones Nos 1, 2, and 12, and has Sarh as its command post.

Article 3—The Fifth Military Region consists of Military Zones No 3, No 4, and No 8, and has Ndjamena as its command post.

Article 4—The minister of national defense, veterans, and war victims is charged with the execution of the present decree, which will be recorded, but which in view of its confidential character will be neither communicated nor published except for administrative purposes.

The third presidential decree concerns the appointment of the director of programs and planning at the Ministry of National Defense, Veterans, and War Victims.

Article 1—Major (Laoudore Kpade) of the FANT has been appointed director of programs and planning at the Ministry of National Defense, Veterans, and War Victims. He replaces Lieutenant Colonel (Ramadan Bedra) who has been assigned to other duties.

Article 2—The minister of national defense, veterans, and war victims is charged with the execution of the present decree which takes effect from the date of [words indistinct] and which will be communicated and published [passage indistinct]

Egypt

Mubarak-Shultz Talks Termed 'Encouraging'

NC291636 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Feb (MENA)—Egypt's Ambassador in Washington 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ridi has said that the talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak were successful and encouraging. Al-Ridi disclosed that the Middle East crisis and the proposals for an overall peace were discussed in detail.

Al-Ridi said that the U.S. Administration is now convinced that in order for a comprehensive peace plan to be formulated, three factors must be taken into account: first, the views of the countries concerned with the problem; second, the security considerations of all the parties concerned; and third, the rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Al-Ridi mentioned that President Mubarak, during his talks with the U.S. secretary of state, stressed the need to convene an international peace conference attended by all the parties concerned, to bring about an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied after 1967, and to allow the Palestinians to determine their own future and live in peace.

Al-Ridi concluded by noting that Shultz briefed the Egyptian officials on his talks in Syria, Jordan, and Israel.

Meanwhile, MENA has learned that the U.S. Middle East peace proposals contain two sections, the implementation of which is based on the conception of simultaneous progression.

The first section speaks of the withdrawal of Israel's troops and its civilian administration from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, concurrent with the assumption by a Palestinian administration of the civil authority as well as some political rights.

The second section concerns the holding of negotiations to formulate a comprehensive peace plan. A certain time limit would be agreed upon in which to finish the talks and to begin implementing the comprehensive peace agreement agreed upon by the parties concerned.

It is expected that George Shultz or his assistant, Richard Murphy, will visit Cairo within the next few days if Shultz achieves positive results during his current tour.

Editorial Urges Shultz To Watch 'Figures'

JN291823 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Feb 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Figures"]

[Text] George Shultz concluded his talks in Israel in a turbulent atmosphere, the background reasons for which must surely not have been lost on the U.S. secretary of state, despite all the efforts of Israeli propagandists. Likewise, Shultz must surely have learned about the true number of innocent Palestinians who were martyred, wounded, or detained during the "special uprising" that coincided with his visit! Not to mention the number who have fallen over a period of more than 2 months!

Figures are significant. Secretary Shultz must find it interesting that Israel must have deployed 20 percent of its military to put a lid on the Palestinian uprising during his stay in Israel. Given his fair, hard-headed approach to the problem and wide access to news sources, Shultz must be aware of the realisitc number of the casualties.

We would emphasize that figures do not lie and lessons can be drawn from them despite the attempts of Israeli propagandists to fabricate and suppress facts. We are not here in the business of "counting." However, we do hope that the customary "levelheadedness" of the U.S. Administration will take into account the facts and figures on the ground. We would like to believe that U.S. policy planners are motivated more by principles and traditions of long standing than by transitory considerations.

Shultz has every right to sound out all opinions during his tour and should make every effort to sell his ideas and proposals, but only if he does so with the figures in the back of his mind. He should then be able to make more astute, correct judgments. Shultz' mission will be made a lot easier if his political conscience is guided by the hard figures.

Mubarak, Abu Ghazalah Depart on Visit to Sudan

NC010813 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Khartoum early today on a private visit to the Sudanese capital. His excellency is accompanied by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; and Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade.

The president was seen off at Cairo Airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; and the ministers of transport and communications, information, industry, petroleum, tourism, interior, finance, and emigration.

'Deterioration' Seen in Sudanese-Libyan Ties

NC010941 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (MENA)—The Sudanese paper AL-USBU' reports that three Libyan diplomats have left Khartoum following the deterioration of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This occurred due to the closure of the Libyan cultural center in Khartoum and the deteriorating security situation between Libya and Sudan, which will affect west Sudan.

The paper says that diplomatic relations between Sudan and Libya had almost reached the point of severance but the intervention of political and leading parties prevented this from happening. It notes that the undeclared visit by Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, member of the Sudanese State Supreme Council, to Libya in the past 2 days has helped halt the deterioration in relations.

Meanwhile, AL-SUDANI paper reports that the Libyan authorities have summoned Sudan's Ambassador in Tripoli 'Abd al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi and have asked for clarifications about some decisions made by his country's security authorities which led to the return of a Libyan students' delegation and the closure of the Libyan cultural center. The paper adds that some families of Libyan diplomats were, in fact, ready to leave Sudan the night the Libyan students' delegation was recalled.

AL-SUDANI cites a Sudanese political source as saying that Sudanese-Libyan relations are going through a critical stage, but AL-UMMAH paper, the mouthpiece of the Al-Ummah Party, denies the existence of any deterioration in bilateral relations. It claims these relations are firm, and any attempt to disrupt them will fail.

Israeli Policy Condemned at OAU Meeting

NC261628 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Egypt has condemned Israel's repressive policy in the occupied Arab territories, the Israeli troops' aggressive acts against Palestinian civilians, and the arrest and expulsion of inhabitants from their homes. It also called on Israel to respect the fourth Geneva convention and to help create the proper atmosphere for holding an international peace conference.

This came in Egypt's speech before the OAU ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa today. The speech points out that President Husni Mubarak recently made efforts on the basis of his peace initiative to create a favorable atmosphere for holding an international peace conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

'Differences' Arise Over Group's Indictment
JN261524 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 Feb 88 pp 1, 18

[Dispatch from "AL-DUSTUR Office"]

[Text] Cairo—Sharp differences have occurred recently among the political leaders in Egypt over the announcement of the bill of indictment in the case of the Egypt's Revolution Organization. Two of President Husni Mubarak's advisers have expressed their strong disappointment over the bill of indictment and its timing, saying the announcement of the bill of indictment at this time will cause a violent shock to the regime.

In the meantime, Ahmad al-Khawajah, defense counsel to Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, the second defendant in the Egypt's Revolution Organization case, has returned to Cairo. However, he has not yet made any statement on his contacts with Khalid in Belgrade and his attempts to persuade the defendant to return to Egypt for the trial.

Reports here say that the Egyptian Government has not asked Yugoslavia to extradite Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, nor has it asked Interpol to hunt down the defendant and bring him to trial, which will begin early next month.

Ahmad al-Khawajah has denied the reports that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir is seeking residency in Libya.

The Egyptian public prosecutor has demanded the death sentence against 11 defendants in the case, including Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, who is charged with financing this organization, which is responsible for commando attacks in recent years against Israeli and U.S. diplomats.

The public prosecution's investigations into the case of the Egypt's Revolution Organization have revealed the nature of the "Bright Star" maneuvers which have taken place in recent years between the Egyptian Government and the United States.

The defendants in the case from the Egyptian Army told the prosecution that U.S. equipment jammed Egyptian radars to test the U.S. capability to disrupt enemy equipment. They said that this was a special U.S. program to acquire experience in disrupting Egyptian radars in case of war with Israel. They added that much of the U.S.-made Egyptian radar equipment is run and controlled by U.S. experts. This control, they said, enables these experts to penetrate Egyptian air defenses at any time. The defendants also explained to the prosecution that some of the radar equipment which the United States sold to Egypt has proven ineffective such as "Taps 63" [name as published] radar, which cost $28 million each.

The defendants affirmed that the United States has refused for years to supply Egypt with spare parts for the F-4 aircraft, which has rendered obsolete all 12 Phantom aircraft in Egypt's possession. These Phantoms are now grounded at Bani Suwayf Air Base.

It is noteworthy that the investigations of the Egypt's Revolution Organization members have also revealed the presence of U.S. experts working in the air defense bases at Al-Muqattam, who are also permanent residents in Egypt.

On the other hand, Safiy al-Din Salim, the defense counsel of the first defendant in the Egypt's Revolution Organization case, has said that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir will return to Egypt for the trial.

Safiy al-Din said that the U.S. Embassy in Cairo possesses a huge file containing precise information on all members of the Egyptian civil service. They said this file, which is programmed into a computer, has information in particular about those who are known to be hostile to the United States and Israel.

He added that the embassy intelligence organ succeeded in identifying the first defendant with the help of this file. He said: They succeeded in discovering the weak point; namely, the brother of the third defendant, 'Isam Nur al-Din. They contacted him and seduced him with women and funds until he told them about all the activities of the organization. He continued his contacts with the U.S. Embassy without his brother, the first defendant, suspecting him.

To avoid any security harassments, Safiy al-Din categorically denied at a brief news conference with journalists any connection between the sons of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and the organization. He said the state security organ's first memo did not make any reference to the sons of 'Abd al-Nasir. He also denied the existence of any dispute between his client, the first defendant, and his divorced wife, as reported in the press. He said the press also spoke about drugs as an attempt to discredit the defendants. He said the first defendant has made an official request concerning the return of his wife.

Al-Khawajah said Khalid will return to Egypt to attend the trial. He said Khalid delayed his return to avoid unwarranted imprisonment. He said his client will remain in Yugoslavia to continue treatment for recent pains in his back and spinal cord.

Al-Khawajah returned to Cairo 2 days ago after a brief visit to Belgrade, during which he met with Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and tried to persuade him to attend the trial.

The law in Egypt does not permit the appointment of a defense counsel in the case of a trial in absentia.

In the meantime, Egyptian security organs have intensified security around the U.S. and Israeli Embassies in Cairo. These security measures also include protecting the nationals of both countries and the residences of diplomats to safeguard them against any action by Egyptian citizens, in view of the strong anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli feeling in the Egyptian streets. This is especially true in the wake of the uprising in the occupied Arab territory and the violent Israeli reaction to it, as well as the disclosure of the Egypt's Revolution Organization and the decision to try its members on charges of assassinating Israeli diplomats in Cairo. The U.S. Embassy in Cairo has asked for equipment for detecting explosives.

In the meantime, the Egyptian Government has asked Israel to reduce the number of Israeli tourist flights to Egypt. It is said that Israel has protested the way the Egyptian prosecution announced the discovery of the Egypt's Revolution Organization and also the way certain Egyptian papers tackled this subject, which has enhanced anti-Israeli feelings. It is also said that Israeli authorities will demand that the Egyptian Government pay compensation for the Israeli victims who were assassinated or injured at the hands of the members of the Egypt's Revolution Organization.

AL-WAFD on Public's View

JN271232 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Feb 88 pp 3, 6

[Excerpts] The case of the Egypt's Revolution Organization has aroused a big argument in the Egyptian street, especially after the long period of blackout on everything relating to this organization. Some people feel that the Egyptians have not yet forgotten the blood of the martyrs of the previous wars. Others wonder: Should we remain silent about what is taking place in the occupied territory and southern Lebanon and also about the killing and destitution of fellow Arabs?

Some people say that the Zionist presence in Egypt provokes the Egyptians' feelings. They say: Until a few years ago, killing a Zionist was an act of heroism. So why has the picture changed now?

Others confirm that the restriction on the freedom of expression on policy in Egypt is the reason behind the activities of the Egypt's Revolution Organization.

On the other hand, a different opinion has appeared, opposing violence. However, it sees the behavior of the organization's members as an attempt to exercise tutelage over Egypt.

One citizen wonders: Is it sensible to demand the execution of 11 Egyptians because they killed 2 Israelis who were Mosad agents? What is the sentence against those who kill Palestinian Arabs every day?

Some people say that the announcement of the bill of indictment at this time was a maneuver to justify the demand for extending the state of emergency law, especially since this law expires on 30 March.

We will in this report convey the pulse of the Egyptian street on a political issue over which Egyptian opinions have differed:

Dr Sa'd Zallam, dean of the Arab Language College says: To be fair, the objective of the organization's members may be patriotic, but they are seeking to achieve it by bloody means. Furthermore, Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and the others think that "the revolution" is the guardian of the government. They seek to achieve their objectives by force. Even if I object to government policy, I cannot condone murder. It would be better to resort to other methods, such as publishing a book or forming a society that preaches peaceful methods. Killing only proves that these individuals consider themselves guardians over Egypt.

'Amr 'Abd al-Hadi Nasif, a journalist for 30 years, says: No doubt, the case of the Egypt's Revolution Organization constitutes a big exclamation mark in the recent history in Egypt. For example, I will not talk about the martyrs of the 1948, 1967, and 1973 wars, or the 1982 war in Lebanon. I will not talk about the victims of Dayr Yasin, Qibyah, Bahr al-Baqar, Abu Za'bal, the Golan, Sidon, and Tyre. I will also not speak about the strike on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the fire in Al-Aqsa Mosque, the poisoning of drinking water for children's schools in Palestine, the burning and distortion of the Koran, or turning mosques in Palestine into brothels for the Zionists.

I will also not speak about martyrs 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyadh, Ghassan Kanafani, Kamal Nasir, Dalal al-Mughrabi, Bilal Fahs, Sana' Muhaydali and Lola 'Abbud.

I will only ask: Where is Egypt now? Where is it heading? What is its role? What does it believe in and what does it not believe in? Could Egypt, with its civilization, leadership, and historic status, turn into a defender of Zionism's crimes and its ignominies? How can martyrdom be equated with terrorism?

I said very plainly: If killing 2 Zionists is equal to the execution of 11 Egyptians, how many Zionists must be killed for the killing, disfiguring, and displacements of hundreds of thousands of honorable Arabs—men, women, children, and old people?

These are questions that I am putting to those with honorable conscience only. [passage omitted]

Muhammad Makkawi, a retired lieutenant colonel in the Armed Forces, says: Despite our disagreement with the Nasirite trend, philosophy, ideology, and method of pouncing to seize power, and also with the period of Nasirite rule and its excesses, we are still confused. Has

the killing of the enemies of the homeland and religion become a higher state security crime, for which special courts must be set up? [passage omitted]

Ahmad Ibrahim al-Sayyid, an employee in a glass and ceramics company, says: The bill of indictment against the members of the Egypt's Revolution Organization is a medal on their chests. This is because they killed Zionist spies who came to wreak havoc in Egypt, while scores of children are being killed in the West Bank and Gaza. [passage omitted]

'Imad Nabawi al-Sa'id, a lawyer, says: Announcing the bill of indictment at this time, when the Palestinian people's uprising is exploding and when many solutions are appearing in the arena, including for example President Mubarak's initiative, is an attempt divert Egyptian public opinion from the central issue—the question of the Palestinian people—especially since the defendants opened fire on Americans and Zionists as reported in the indictment. The raising of this issue at this time and with such a big uproar is a prelude to a strike against the aspirations of the citizens who reject normalization with the Israeli enemy. [passage omitted]

'Ala' al-Din Zaki, a teacher, says: This case should make us wonder about the reasons that prompted the organization's members to resort to this method. I imagine that the main reason is the restriction of the freedom of political expression in Egypt. It is understood that this faction of our society wanted to form a Nasirite party expressing Nasirite principles. But the government authorities have suppressed them. Therefore, it is only natural for them to resort to illegitimate methods to express their principles. However, I am against terrorism. [passage omitted]

State Attorney Interviewed

JN291307 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 26 Feb 88 pp 16-19

[Interview with Aja' al-'Arabi, first attorney for the Higher State Security Prosecution, by Sayyid Zaki; place, date not given]

[Text] [Zaki] When was the Egypt's Revolution Organization discovered?

[Al-'Arabi] According to the facts of the case, we received the first report on 6 September 1987. However, there were certainly investigations and efforts by the security service prior to that date.

[Zaki] How true are the reports that the U.S. Embassy was the first to know about the organization?

[Al-'Arabi] There is nothing at all in the investigations about that. The circumstances of the case prove that the organization was uncovered by the competent security services. Any claims not mentioned in the investigations are rejected by the prosecution because there is no written evidence or because none of the sides involved put forward such evidence.

[Zaki] A point made against the bill of indictment is that it first specified the death sentence as punishment for the first 11 defendants; we were then surprised by statements indicating the possibility of the punishment varying from the death sentence to life imprisonment with hard labor. What is the explanation?

[Al-'Arabi] The prosecution calls for the application of specific indictment articles of the penal code, articles that apply to crimes that have been committed. These articles call for the maximum penalty. However, that does not prevent the court from passing a lesser penalty, given extenuating circumstances, or that the penalty should be at a certain or higher degree. Statements on the penalty and on changing it are expressions of personal views. However, it is up to the court to pass a sentence within the limits defined in the text of the law. It is very possible that the court will acquit the defendants.

[Zaki] It has been said that Sulayman Khatir [an Egyptian soldier who opened fire at Israelis in Sinai] was a member of the organization?

[Al-'Arabi] His name was not mentioned at all. No one mentioned him, not even in passing.

[Zaki] Another thing, how can the financial transactions of a very secret ogranization include financing by checks, which clearly incriminate it?

[Al-'Arabi] Large sums of money were cashed without the use of checks. The use of checks in some financial transactions has also been proved. They constituted proof of contact, for they were issued by one particular individual to another, and both of them are members of the organization. The question is, are these in fact all the sums they obtained? Definitely not, for the sums are not commensurate with the expenditure involved. Even the sums spent on personal pleasure were basically not financed by the checks. The checks were part of the evidence. However, it is clear that the amount of the expenses far exceed the value of the checks.

[Zaki] Has the prosecution considered contacting those who absconded to ask them to surrender?

[Al-'Arabi] The facts and the deeds concern us. We have made no such contacts. Our role as prosecution ends at this level. The case is now in the hands of the court. The arrest orders have been given by the police and it is up to the security quarters concerned to carry out these orders.

[Zaki] The defendants include some doctors who gave medical treatment to some of the defendants. What is the legal postiion on these doctors?

[Al-'Arabi] We are talking about concealing crime. So the question is: Has he given these medical services with or without knowing the circumstances of the defendants? If he knew, this would be a crime of both assisting in and concealing a crime. Still, the charge is not as a strong as that brought against the others. Even in ordinary crimes, the doctors duty is to inform the authorities as soon as he learns that the wound he is treating is the result of a crime.

[Zaki] What is the truth about the first defendant's attempt to commit suicide, and is there an official report on this incident?

[Al-'Arabi] When we were told of the incident, the chief prosecutor went to the prison, where it was established that the defendant had indeed attempted suicide at the beginning of the investigations. The chief prosecutor made the necessary investigations.

[Zaki] Has the political decision intervened in the timing of the issuance of the bill of indictment?

[Al-'Arabi] Actually, the investigations had been completed and the case had been prepared. We in the prosecution are restricted by the period of precautionary custody, which must not exceed 6 months except in most unusual circumstances and when it is required by law.

Therefore, since the investigation had been completed and the 6-month period was about to expire at the beginning of next month, there was no reason why we should not announce the bill of indictment. Actually, I am surprised. Should everything now be attributed to political decisions? The judiciary is independent and this fact is known to everyone.

[Zaki] Were there any other persons who were not covered by the investigation, or is the list confined to the 20 defendants covered by the bill of indictment?

[Al-'Arabi] Had the investigation referred to other persons, they would have been dealt with immeidately. On the contrary, there wre many others who were cleared because they had no connection with the subject, or their relationship was ordinary and transient and did not reach the level of crime. So they were completely ruled out.

[Zaki] How many were they?

[Al-'Arabi] About eight. Their names were mentioned in passing as having visited the defendants or were in contact with them. Then it was discovered that these were ordinary contacts.

[Zaki] Was there anything in the defendants' statement confirming that they planned to seize power?

[Al-'Arabi] There was nothing. Otherwise, they would have faced the additional charge of forming a political organization aimed at seizing power. The investigations made no such conclusion.

[Zaki] How did the investigations include convicting some defendants of taking drugs?

[Al-'Arabi] We have seized something that confirms these remarks in terms of cigarette rolls mixed with hashish, as well as bottles containing traces of heroin. In addition, there were numerous remarks about taking cocaine and how it was taken. Equipment in which cocaine was burned for consumption was also seized. All this confirms what was decided in this regard. Furthermore, some defendants, such as the third one, were treated for drug addiction, and the doctor is one of the defendants. A picture will be taken of all this evidence and sent to the narcotics prosecutor's office.

[Zaki] Has it been confirmed that security circles applied certain pressures on the defendants?

[Al-'Arabi] There have been successive and lengthy interrogation sessions. The cases were re-enacted, which reaffirmed the defendants' confessions. the scenes of crimes were examined, which also reaffirmed the confessions. It is clear from pictures published in newspapers and magazines and also from examining the weapons and other examinations that lawyers were actually present with the defendants. The first defendant was eager to have his lawyer accompany him. Lawyers attended with some defendants, and no defendant complained about pressure or torture.

Hence, we cannot cast doubts on the defendants' testimonies. However, we did not rely only on these confessions. Whenever the defendants mentioned an incident, we investigated it in detail. An example of this is the purchase of cars. The sellers were brought in, and they identified the defendants during a legal encounter.

[Zaki] Was the prosecution satisfied with the list of the witnesses for the prosecution?

[Al-'Arabi] There is nothing to justify casting doubt on their testimonies, especially since it was not confirmed that there had been prior acquaintance or grudges between them and the defendants. Moreover, the investigations led to confirmation of incidents that the defendants themselves had mentioned. The defendants guided the prosecution to the places and cars and also to some clues inside the cars. Weapons were also seized in the defendants' houses. In the presence of all these pieces of evidence, we should not remain skeptical.

[Zaki] Reference was made to some relations with women in this case. What is the extent of such relations?

[Al-'Arabi] These were personal relations. The women testified that they saw some incidents. However, the women's testimonies do not indicate that they had prior knowledge of the defendants' affilation to an organization or anything else.

[Zaki] Did the list of witnesses for the prosecution include these women?

[Al-'Arabi] These women were mentioned in the list of observations that contained their testimonies.

[Zaki] Why were they not included in the witnesses' list?

[Al-'Arabi] Their testimony was confined to certain simple points. They were excluded from the witnesses' list because they were not sworn in at the time. Second, the incident to which they testified is recorded in the investigations. We added the testimony as an observation. However, if the court decides to call them as witnesses, that is its prerogative. Their exclusion from the witnesses' list is purely technical and related to the order of witnesses. It does not mean we overlooked anything.

[Zaki] What have you found from the recordings and the investigation reports on the nature of the relationship among the members of this group?

[Al-'Arabi] We found that they received monthly salaries as well as rewards for every operation. They also held drug sessions and were given funds to purchase apartments and cars.

[Zaki] All the defendants made statements on Khalid. However, Mahmud Nur al-Din has not made any statement. How do you explain that?

[Al-'Arabi] The defendant has the right to decline to mention any incident or even to relate it differently. The court alone will decide if statements corroborate one another.

[Zakir] Is there any evidence against Khalid other than the checks and the funds?

[Al-'Arabi] All evidence against the second defendant is contained in the list of evidence. There are only the checks, the statements by the defendants, and some items which the defendants said Khalid had brought and given to the first defendant. These items are a machine-gun with a silencer, a trigger for an automatic weapon, and funds. The defendants also said that he used to congratulate them after every operation.

[Zaki] The first defendant's story is that the check for $20,000 belonged to a friend in Alexandria, and then he returned the check to Khalid. Is this true?

[Al-'Arabi] It has been established that the check was drawn against the account of the second defendant [Khalid]. The first defendant gave this check toward the price of apartments in Glim Center in Alexandria, bought in the names of certain girls and also the second wife of Mahmud. All this is recorded in the first list of evidence.

[Zaki] Has it been established that the first defendant visited Libya recently?

[Al-'Arabi] It has been established that he made several visits to Libya before returning to Egypt in 1984.

[Zakir] What is the latest on this case now?

[Al-'Arabi] Preparations are under way to announce the names of the defendants in prison and those abroad, as well as the countries where they now reside. Then the case will be referred to the Cairo Court of Appeals.

Iraq's Ibrahim Departs After 4-Day Visit

NC261322 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, Iraqi RCC vice chairman, left Cairo this afternoon, following a 4-day visit. During his visit he met with President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. He also held talks on the Palestinian issue, the Middle East problem, and the Iraq-Iran war, as well as bilateral relations.

It was agreed during the visit to expand the scope of the joint committee's activities to include the various areas of economic cooperation, trade exchange, tourism, and other vital fields.

'New Strategy' on Cooperation

NC270856 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim has announced that agreement has been reached on a new strategy for military cooperation between Egypt and Iraq. The details of this strategy, he added, will be discussed during the talks to be held between military officials of the two countries in the coming days.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM published today, Ibrahim said that during his visit to Cairo, which ended yesterday, he and Egyptian officials had agreed to lay down a new economic strategy between the two countries to end the current shortcomings, which are incompatible with the close and developing political relations between the two countries. He added that the volume of bilateral trade will reach $800 million, quadrupling the current figure.

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi will visit Baghdad in March to attend the first meeting of the joint committee at prime ministerial level. He noted that prior to this meeting political, military, and economic delegations of the two countries will exchange visits in order to discuss the coordination and integration of projects established in both countries and to set up joint ventures. It was also agreed that each of the two countries should take account of the other country's needs before implementing any project, he concluded.

Turkish Chief of Staff Ends Visit, Departs

NC271500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Turkish Chief of Staff General Necip Torumtay left for home this afternoon aboard a private plane, concluding his 1-week visit to Cairo during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Turkish official held talks during the visit with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, on strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Libya

Austrian Paper Interviews Al-Qadhdhafi

AU291847 Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German 29 Feb pp 4-5

[Interview with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Kurt Seinitz in Tripoli; date not given]

[Text] NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG: Brother Mu'ammar, let us start with the topical events and Israel's course of action in the occupied territories. How do you evaluate the Palestinians' revolt and its effects on the development in the Middle East?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Undoubtedly, the whole world has now become aware of the danger that Zionism represents. Today all those who support Zionism, for example, most of all the United States, would have to be called to account, just like those who supported Hitler and fascism in the past. The Zionists constantly use the world's sensitivity toward the crimes of fascism against the Jews to justify their own criminal policy. They go so far as to want to interfere in other countries and to decide, for example, who shall be president in Austria, because Austria is a small country.

If Waldheim were really guilty, he and (French President) Mitterrand would have to be placed on trial. Mitterrand was minister in a government that committed terrible crimes in Algeria, even a genocide with more than 1 million people killed. Mitterrand was responsible for the murder of many patriots in the prisons. Do only crimes against Jews count, while crimes against Arabs do not? What kind of justice is this?

NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG: In the past you vehemently criticized PLO leader 'Arafat. How do you judge today his part in the topical events?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is the revolution of a new generation.... I do not want to say any more.

Peace Movement in Israel Positive [subhead]

NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG: In Israel a new generation in the oppositional peace movement is making itself heard. Are these not forces of hope which should be promoted and encouraged?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It has always been my point of view that Israel has no right to exist, but that there is only one Palestinian people—Arab, Christian, and Jewish Palestinians. It is surely possible that these peace-loving groups you have mentioned will be part of such a Palestinian state. The others should return to where they have come from, that is to say, to the Arab states. It is not at all in the interest of the Jews that there is a Jewish state. It brings them into a position of hostility toward other peoples. The Jews who are killed by the Palestinians are not killed because they are Jews. They would not be harmed if they had remained in the Soviet Union or in France.

NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG: Libya's policy is sometimes hard for us to understand. In this context, terror is also mentioned and you are called the "most dangerous man in the world." Do you feel that you misunderstood?

Al-Qadhdhafi: People are not against me because there is terrorism. Libyans never hijacked a plane or took hostages; we reject terrorist crimes, because we are putting up a just struggle for the liberation of the peoples. Our opponents call this terrorism in order to make us suspect, and so they can terrorize us. Real terrorists do not meet with such hostility as shown toward us.

NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG: Reagan will not be President for much longer. Will you then be better disposed toward the United States?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I believe that relations between the United States and the Arabs will undoubtedly improve after Reagan leaves. We do not hate the Americans, but we are against their policy. I do not believe that the next President will commit the same follies and horrible crimes against us as Reagan has.

Arabs Have Right to Nuclear Bomb [subhead]

NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG: Nuclear fissionable material has disappeared from Germany. Are you building nuclear bombs?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It has already been sufficiently proven that the material was not shipped to Libya or Pakistan. But in principle: As the Israelis have nuclear bombs, the

Arabs are also entitled to possess such weapons in order to reach the equilibrium that guarantees peace. Thus, if the Arabs take the path toward nuclear armament, the Israelis, and the West which has enabled them to equip themselves with nuclear arms and to take such arms to the Middle East, are to blame for this.

Not Staining Religion by Policy [subhead]

NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG: How can the war between Iraq and Iran be stopped?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This war is a tragedy. It is so radical that it is absolutely barbaric. Even densely populated residential areas, schools, and school children are the targets of brutal attacks.... How can it be stopped?... (Qadhdhafi shrugs his shoulders)

NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG: Regarding the interconnection of religion and politics, the West talks of "Islamic fundamentalism." What is your attitude toward it? Your country is also strictly Islamic. Al-Qadhdhafi: Religion is a spiritual business between man and God, between earth and heaven; and politics is a very wordly, material business between people. This is my point of view. Politics has many lies, and much foul play. Anyone who believes that religion and politics can be mixed is naive, even primitive. There are no Islamic or non-Islamic cars, no Islamic or non-Islamic or Jewish or Christian medicine. This would be ridiculous. It is true that such an attitude can be proclaimed, but the negative consequences will later become apparent.

Religion is something holy that should not be stained by politics. Such an attitude is harmful. There is one example: Palestine and what has been made of the Jewish religion—a state that is built on injustice and corpses. Thus people did not serve religion; they only harmed it. People should not become enemies on account of religion.

The NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG outlines in detail the Noricum weapons scandal for al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Qadhdhafi: So far I have believed that this is only a rumor. I did not know that there will also be lawsuits.

Immediate Order To Investigate Scandal [subhead]

(Qadhdhafi makes a call and is connected with his staff: "Do you know anything about an arms scandal in Austria? No? We are said to have passed arms on to Iran.... End-user certificates.... An investigation, if we are involved in it, is to be immediately initiated!")

Al-Qadhdhafi: We will investigate this, because it is important that we have no problems with Austria. We do not need this sort of weapons. Just like the Austrians, we are surprised at this scandal....

Newspaper Reports Efforts To Reunite PLO

JN291731 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that during the past few days Libya has resumed its contacts with the Palestinian revolution factions in Damascus and the Fatah Movement in Tunisia in order to convince them of the importance of holding an expanded meeting in Tripoli next month. Its task will be to discuss the means for expediting the reunification of the PLO in light of regional and international political developments, the escalation of the popular uprising in the occupied territories, and the need to support and develop it.

Palestinian sources in Damascus told AL-ITTIHAD that Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis, chief of staff of the Libyan Armed Forces, will arrive in Damascus in the next few weeks in order to convince Syria to support this meeting and to work to render it a success. He will also hold talks with Palestinian organizations and officials who have not responded to the Libyan invitation. Among those who have not responded are Al-Sa'iqah, Khalid al-Fahum, and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar. The sources said they expect the new Libyan endeavors to succeed after the PFLP-GC and the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, which had previously rejected such a meeting, changed their stand and agreed to the Libyan endeavors.

Sudan's Taj al-Din Departs After Talks

LD011034 Tripoli JANA in English 0942 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Marikh 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY— Dr A.H. Taj al-Din, member of State Council of Sudan and his accompanying delegation, left Tripoli after concluding their visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

The delegation were seen off by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces. A number of officers of these forces have also participated in seeing off the delegation, apart from the ambassador and Sudan's embassy personnel accredited to Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Senegalese Envoy

LD272217 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1812 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received Brother Mustapha Sissi, the private advisor of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, who handed him a message from President Abdou Diouf.

Envoy Departs

LD271630 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1527 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Mustapha Sissi, private advisor of Senegalese president Abdou Diouf, left Tripoli today at the end of a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Departs 27 Feb

LD271631 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1525 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Feb (JANA)—Brother Abdul Karim Koromo, foreign affairs minister of Sierra Leone, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli today following a visit to the great Jamahiriyah.

Prior to his departure from Tripoli International Airport, he hailed the results achieved during his visit to the great Jamahiriyah, which he states touched on issues related to Sierra Leone and the Jamahiriyah.

Delegations Arrives for Jamahiriyah Anniversary

USSR Delegation

LD292256 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Bally Yazkuliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Turkmen Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening to take part in the Libyan Arab people's celebrations marking the advent of the people's authority and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history.

Yazkuliyev made a statement to JANA in which he expressed his deep gratitude for the opportunity given to him and the delegation accompanying him to take part in these celebrations. He said: I bring greetings from the Soviet people to the Libyan Arab people on the commemoration of the 11th anniversary of the advent of the people's authority.

He added that this visit will give the delegation the opportunity to see the achievements of the great al-Fatih revolution, and added: The great al-Fatih revolution is constantly working for the progress of the Libyan Arab people, who have foiled all the imperialist plans. He noted in this respect that all the progressive peoples, primarily the people of the Soviet Union, stand firmly by the side of the Libyan Arab people in their struggle for progress.

The Soviet official also said: We hope that this visit will deepen the distinguished cordial relations between the Soviet Union and the great Jamahiriyah.

SFRY Assembly Delegation

LD281334 Tripoli JANA in English 1025 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawar [February] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Omar Kurpejovic, the president of the Federal Chamber of the Federal Assembly in Yugoslavia, and the delegation in his company arrived in Tripoli yesterday to attend the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people marking the 11th anniversary of the proclamation of people's power and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history.

In a statement to JANA, he expressed his pleasure at visiting Great Jamahiriyah and to be attending the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people marking the proclamation of people's power through which the people took control of authority.

He made clear that he will hold talks during this visit on developing and enhancing bilateral cooperation. He pointed out that Yugoslavia is following with interest the development seen in Great Jamahiriyah in various fields.

Bulgarian Delegation

LD281529 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Zhivko Zhivkov, member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and member of the Bulgarian People's Republic State Council, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this afternoon to take part in the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the people's authority and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Hassan Receives Tunisian Prime Minister

LD291643 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, God made him victorious, this afternoon received Tunisian Prime Minister Mr Hedi Baccouche at the Throne Hall in the Royal Palace at Marrakesh. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki. King Hassan II and the Tunisian prime minister held talks which lasted about 2 hours. They were attended by Prime Minister Laraki; Driss Basri, interior and information minister; and his majesty's advisor Ahmed Ridha Guidera. It was also attended by Mr Zouhayr Chelly, Tunisia's ambassador in Rabat.

Tunisian Minister of Cultural Affairs Zakariya Ben Mostapha greeted his majesty the king. He is currently in our country to attend the ceremony to award the 1987 Moroccan Cultural Prize. He was accompanied by Moroccan Minister of Cultural Affairs Mohamed Ben Isa.

Former Minister Interviewed on Maghreb Unity

PM291001 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17 Feb 88 p 11

[Interview with Constitutional Union Party leader and former Prime Minister Maati Bouabid by 'Umar al-Anwari in Casablanca; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Anwari] How would you assess the recent moves in the Arab Maghreb region and the attempts to widen the fraternity and concord treaty to embrace Libya?

[Bouabid] We regard any move toward union, whether at the regional or national level, as a date with history and an opportunity to rise above reality in order to gain a comprehensive view and establish a dynamic of concord which will bear fruit in the short- and medium-term. From this viewpoint, we can only praise every attempt to bring together brothers who are linked by unity of faith, language, and destiny. If the recent moves to widen the fraternity and concord treaty are aimed at achieving the desired integration, then we warmly applaud them.

But if it is a matter of considerations of short-term expediency and oblique approaches, then our position will be clear and decisive in the face of an attempt to sow seeds of discord between brothers, the result of which would be to transform the region into an appetizing tidbit for outside ambitions.

[Al-Anwari] What is your opinion about the statements made by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who opposes the inclusion of Morocco in any Maghreb unity before the problems of the Sahara are settled?

[Bouabid] I would first like to emphasize that Morocco deals with its neighbors and partners on the basis of full sovereignty. Its internal and external approaches are characterized by independence and equilibrium. Our will is not dictated to us, and our unionist approach is Moroccan and Arab and has never been the subject of haggling or one-upmanship. Morocco rejects having preconditions dictated to it or its moves restricted. It believes in dealing in an exemplary manner and respecting the sovereignty of those holding a dialogue with it. We have carefully followed the actions of the Sakiet Sidi Youssof summit, and we have noted President Chadli Bendjedid's remark that the goal of establishing the Arab Maghreb is not to form a bloc in order to attack others, but to defend ourselves as a nation and as possessors of a common civilization and history.

It is an endeavor stemming from a precise understanding of the course of history. We hoped that it would advance the fraternity and concord treaty after its ratification in 1983. However, we do not understand President Bendjedid's mechanical linking of the establishment of the Arab Maghreb and the so-called Sahara issue, because he is the first to know that this issue is following its normal course and that a UN committee has examined the facts in the southern provinces and has submitted its report to Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

So why have the Algerian brothers gone back on their position? Let us wait for the reply, since Morocco's position on the issue of its sovereignty in its southern territories has been settled as far as we, the king, the government, and the people are concerned. And in no way do we consider the completion of our territorial unity an obstacle to any unionist action.

[Al-Anwari] Do you think that an Arab Maghreb can be set up without Morocco?

[Bouabid] A glance at the map of the Arab Maghreb is sufficient to confirm the impossibility and the failure of any isolationist attempt. The integral Arab Maghreb cannot be broken up or have one of its wings cut off without resulting in more confusion. The Arab Maghreb is racially and geographically a harmonious and complete whole. When one member is cut off, the others complain. Just as the Arab Maghreb cannot be built without Algeria, one cannot disregard Morocco as a local power with influence in the Maghreb and with a prominent strategic African and European dimension.

[Al-Anwari] What are your views on the desired Maghreb union?

[Bouabid] Our slogan in this regard is: No negligence or exaggeration. We are a nation in the middle which rejects blind extremism and repudiates the military camp mentality and the axis policy. We are a nation of deliberation and fraternal and open dialogue, and we strongly reject transforming the region into a theater for superpower conflict and its spread through openings created by regional and local disputes. The desired Arab Maghreb ought to stem from a view of the future, in order to strengthen the destiny of upcoming generations instead of throwing them into the darkness of the unknown. We would like the talents of our Arab peoples in the Greater Maghreb to have a vigorous life in which to mature and grow in an atmosphere of freedom, dignity, and mutual respect removed from the fabrication of crises.

[Al-Anwari] What, in your opinion, are the obstacles which have prevented the convening of the Consultative Council set up by the Arab Maghreb parliaments, despite the agreement of all the states to it?

[Bouabid] Morocco, on the initiative of King Hassan II, took the lead in calling for the setting up of a united Maghreb parliamentary body. This call met with the desired responses in the various Maghreb capitals, the last response being the Tunisian brothers' renewal of their support for the setting up of such a parliamentary body embracing representatives from the councils of Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria. Morocco is still awaiting Algeria's clear response to this project, which assumes particular importance and places us in the rank of states whose parliamentary activities have become deep-rooted and solid traditions. I know that Tunisia, Mauritania, and of course Morocco are genuinely enthusiastic about completing these structures without preconditions.

[Al-Anwari] What, in your opinion, are the consequences of the Sahara war for the creation of the Arab Maghreb?

[Bouabid] You know that an Algerian committee visited Morocco recently for a dialogue based on an agenda prepared in Algeria with the participation of the minister for foreign affairs and Maghreb cooperation. So what happened? This committee refrained from tackling any issue of economic cooperation between Morocco and

Algeria, the issue of opening the borders, and a number of financial and economic issues. Consequently, Moroccan-Algerian dialogue has been frozen to this day because of the obscure and vague insistence on giving priority to the Sahara conflict at the expense of plans for integration.

[Al-Anwari] Do you think that the dynamic of the referendum procedure adopted by the United Nations can proceed in parallel with the dynamic of building the Arab Maghreb? How can that be achieved?

[Bouabid] Morocco created the dynamic of dialogue after King Hassan II announced in New York in 1981 the idea of organizing a referendum and his acceptance of its results. Since then, this matter has been greatly delayed by those who are not bothered about settling the issue, so it was necessary to open the way for the United Nations to formulate an initiative, which we unhesitatingly and enthusiastically welcomed. Also, we have never rejected the huge and praiseworthy efforts of fraternal Arab states to reconcile viewpoints.

Sudan

Egyptian President Arrives in Khartoum 1 Mar

JN010941 Khartoum SUNA in English
0931 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum Mar 1 (SUNA)—President Husni Mubarak of Egypt arrived here today morning on a one-day state visit to Sudan, and is due to meet with the State Council members, the premier, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and a number of political parties leaders. President Mubarak is to give a press conference prior to his departure.

The Egyptian president will meet with leaders of the Al-Ummah, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the Sudanese Communist Party, the South Sudan political parties, and the Islamic National front, it was announced. President Husni Mubarak, who arrived this morning at Khartoum Airport, was received by the chairman and members of the Council of State, the prime minister, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party and the accredited diplomats to Khartoum.

A high level delegation is accompanying President Mubarak, including Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Deputy Premier and Agriculture Minister Dr Yusuf Wali, Economic Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa, besides the Egyptian General Information Authority Chairman Mahmud al-Biltaji. Talks between the two sides have already started, it was announced.

Khartoum University Reopens 27 Feb

JN271819 Khartoum SUNA in English
1740 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 27 (SUNA)—The University of Khartoum has resumed lessons today after being closed for more than three months due to riots and conflict in November between the administration and the student union.

The biggest educational institution in Sudan was reopened after preparation of new regulations by specialized committee studied the reasons that led to the disturbances. [sentence as received]

Among the regulations is the prohibition of entering the campus except for students and the university's employees.

University Chancellor Prof Yusif Fadl today issued a statement distributed to the students saying that these regulations should be committed and implemented by all sides.

Meanwhile, the students union issued a statement and announced their rejection to any attempt "minimizing freedom of activities. [quotation mark as received]

In its statement today, the student union called for making of a comprehensive press charter to regulate press work in the university.

The statement furthermore protested that they were not neglected and not represented in the committees that prepared the regulations. [sentence as received]

The regulation says that no wall magazine will be licensed unless the student or the group that wants to issue it report to the students' dean.

Sanadah Discusses OAU, Ethiopian Talks

JN281925 Khartoum SUNA in English
1715 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 28 (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah announced that he presented to his Ethiopian counterpart, in the sideline of the meetings of the Ministerial Council of the Organization of the African Unity "OAU", proposals dealing with the convening of the joint committee between the two countries.

Sanadah explained upon arriving here from Addis Ababa today, Sunday, that the Ethiopian foreign minister has pledged to study Sudan's proposals and to inform the government here later. The foreign minister, who declined to give further information on the proposals, confirmed that his talks with his Ethiopian counterpart centered on the importance of convening the meetings of the joint committee.

A joint ministerial committee was formed between the two countries to study the disputes and problems of borders erupted following the capture of rebel forces of Col John Garang of the bordering town of Kurmuk.

The minister added that he met with some African ministers and discussed with them the bilateral relations, issues concerning the African continent, besides the situation in Sudan. He also conveyed messages from Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to some African leaders, among them Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who is also the current chairman of the OAU.

Sanadah Meets British Parliamentarians

JN291812 Khartoum SUNA in English 1706 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 29 (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah received here today the British parliamentary delegation currently on a visit to Sudan, and briefed them on the difficulties facing the country from the presence of refugees.

We are not against the presence of refugees, but when their number reach 10 percent of the Sudan population and the government must call on the international community to assume its responsibilities in the regard, Dr Sanadah said.

On the recent developments of relations between Sudan and Ethiopia, he stated that he met shortly with the Ethiopian foreign minister and reviewed [with] him the possibility of convening the meetings of the joint ministerial committee in Khartoum, adding that the two sides could reach an agreement in the connection through the diplomatic channels.

On the human rights in Sudan, the minister outlined that Sudan's constitution grants the political, social and religious rights for all the citizens, adding that about 40 percent of September laws imposed in 1983 by the defunct regime of May had been replaced by new laws.

Ugandan Foreign Affairs Minister Arrives

JN281935 Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 28, (SUNA)—The Ugandan state minister for foreign affairs arrived here Sunday on an official visit to the country.

The Ugandan official is carrying a message from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi pertinent to bilateral relations between the Sudan and Uganda.

Transfer of Ugandan Refugees

JN291805 Khartoum SUNA in English 1722 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 29 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has agreed on a proposal presented by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to transfer the Ugandan refugees in Sudan to their homelands, the Ugandan state minister for foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Sudan, said following his meeting today with Al-Mahdi.

The Ugandan official told reporters that the transference process of the refugees will be implemented regularly.

Sudanese ambassador to Uganda said that the number of the Ugandan refugees is about 70 to 80 thousand [words indistinct].

Zairian Official Arrives for Talks 28 Feb

JN281853 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 28 (SUNA)—The Zairian foreign minister [title as received] arrived here this afternoon for talks with Sudanese officials on bilateral relations, prospect of joint Sudanese-Zairian projects, and other issues of mutual concern.

The Zairian guest said, in a statement on his arrival, that his country attaches special importance to the situation in the Sudan. Expressing his sorrow about the situation in southern Sudan, the Zairian official said "dialogue" is the only solution for the war in the south and pointed out that his country had suffered a lot of civil war and strife.

Official Meets With Sanadah

JN291111 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 29 (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah met here Sunday evening with the Zairian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Kabala Kisela Seka, currently on a visit to Sudan.

The meeting discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them further, in addition to current situations in the region.

Acting Foreign Undersecretary at the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign [Affairs] al-Mirghani Sulayman Khalil has pointed out that Dr Sanadah had briefed the Zairian official on the Sudan's efforts to convening the national constitutional conference to solve the Sudan's problems, and the Sudan transitional charter.

The meeting was attended by the advisor of the Zairian president, Zaire ambassador to Khartoum as well as the acting foreign undersecretary and the Sudan ambassador to Zaire.

Talks With Al-Mirghani

JN291820 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 29 (SUNA)—Chairman of the Council of State Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani received here today Zairian State Minister for Foreign Affairs M. Kabala Kisela Seka, who is currently on a visit here after an invitation by the Sudanese foreign minister.

Following the meeting M. Kabala said that they had reviewed bilateral relations and agreed on exchanging visits for promoting these relations.

He outlined that he discussed yesterday with Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah cooperation between the two countries, and regional and international issues of mutual concern.

M. Kabala also said that he met yesterday with Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn and reviewed with him border problems and the joint regional questions.

The Zairian state minister for foreign affairs denied that his government support the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) led by Colonel John Garang.

M. Kabala arrived here yesterday on a two day official visit to Sudan.

Bahrain

Reportage on Visit by Moroccan Foreign Minister

Arrives 27 Feb

JN272010 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Manama, 27 Feb (WAKH)—Dr Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived in Manama from Muscat this evening on a 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of the region's states. The Moroccan minister is carrying a message from King Hassan II of Morocco to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain.

Minister Filali will also hold talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa on bilateral relations, ways to develop them, and current developments in the Arabian Gulf region in particular and the Arab region in general. The talks will also cover issues of common interest. Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah welcomed the Moroccan foreign affairs minister upon arrival.

Received by Amir

JN281215 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Manama, 28 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, has received a written message from King Hassan II of Morocco on coordination and consultations on issues of mutual interest, particularly those dealing with developments in the Arab arena, the situation in the Arab Maghreb, and ways of promoting bilateral relations. Dr Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, delivered the message when he was received by Shaykh 'Isa today. Talks during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Manama.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN281525 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Manama, 28 Feb (WAKH)—Dr Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Manama for Doha today after a 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of his tour of a number of regional countries. During the visit, he conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, from Moroccan King Hassan II on bilateral relations and ways to promote them, as well as on current developments in the Arab arena, the situation in Morocco, and issues of common interest. He was seen off by Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

In a statement before leaving, Dr Filali said he held talks with his hgihness the Bahraini amir on ways to promote relations between Bahrain and Morocco in all fields as well as developments in the Arab arena, pointing out that the two countries had identical views on the need for Arabs to achieve solidarity, conduct consultations, and exchange views. He stressed his country's support for the Arabian Gulf countries and expressed hope a solution to the Iraq-Iran war will be achieved through negotiations so Arabian Gulf countries could enjoy security and stability.

Dr Filali also pointed out that his talks with the foreign minister centered on bilateral relations and ways to promote them in all areas as well as on Arab issues and the developments that have occurred since the Amman summit. At the end of his statement, he praised Bahraini-Moroccan relations, stressing that continued meetings and consultations among both countries officials will produce good results for both peoples.

Kuwait

Soviet Envoy Briefs Sabah on U.S.-USSR Talks

LD011258 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1218 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Mar (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, acting prime minister and foreign minister, today received the ambassador of the Soviet Union to Kuwait, Ernest Zverev. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told journalists that the ambassador explained to him the outcome of the recent talks which took place in Moscow between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, particularly regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the Middle East, and Afghanistan.

PDRY

Communique Signed With Libyan Trade Union

EA262152 Aden ANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Aden, 26 Feb—A joint communique was signed this morning at the fraternal talks between the Mining and Petroleum Workers General Union and the Delegation of the General Secretariat of Petrochemical Industries Workers Union in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. It was signed by Comrade Abdullah Mugharif, secretary of the General Union, and Brother 'Abd al-Hamid Muhammad al-Dughri, secretary of the General Congress for External Relations and leader of the delegation. In the communique the two sides expressed identical views on all trade union, political, international, and Arab issues. They stressed their total support for the uprising of the Palestinian people and their heroic confrontation with the Zionist occupation forces.

Qatar

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Shaykh Al Thani

PM291447 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 19 Feb 88 pp 18, 19, 21

[Interview with Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani by Chief Editor Milhim Karam in Doha; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Karam: Now that it has been agreed, via the mediation of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, to refer the dispute between Qatar and Bahrain to the International Court of Justice, how close is the dispute to being ended?

Shaykh Khalifah Al Thani: The dispute between the two states of Qatar and Bahrain, which concerns sovereignty over the Hawar Islands and their territorial waters, is a dispute over legal matters. It is clear that the referral of this legal dispute to the International Court of Justice, on the grounds that it is the highest legal organization in the world, is the right way to settle it. This is because a settlement would be achieved on the basis of international law, which settles international disputes both wisely and fairly.

That is why the State of Qatar has welcomed the proposal made by Brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Saud, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, calling for the dispute between Qatar and Bahrain to be referred to the court. Since the two parties have accepted the proposal and agreed to implement it, and in fact have begun to take legal measures to fulfill their obligation, and since the International Court of Justice's ruling will, as is known, be both final and binding, the dispute will finally be settled by a ruling. [passage omitted]

Karam: Has any progress been made in the dialogue between the GCC and the EEC regarding the export of Arab Gulf oil products to Europe?

Shaykh Khalifah Al Thani: The talks between the GCC and the European Community have continued for more than 3 years. But regrettably they have not yet secured a comprehensive agreement on the economic cooperation sought between the two groups. [passage omitted]

Karam: In your view, how can the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza be used to achieve the objectives of the Palestinian people?

Shaykh Khalifah Al Thani: The uprising of the Palestinian people, whose land and political and human rights were unjustly and forcibly usurped, is a strong and courageous expression of their rejection of submission. These people have proved that the agents of their suffering for so many years are unable to undermine their determination to stand fast and resist until victory is achieved. It is obvious for these brave people, who are launching a huge angry outburst against occupation and aggression, to look to their Arab brothers for every form of support at all levels.

Undoubtedly the pooling of Arab efforts to benefit from the gains which the just cause of these people has made, namely, large-scale world sympathy for their historic uprising, will lead this cause into the hearts of all peace-loving peoples. Cooperation in this regard will remind the international community of the cause and the need to secure a just and comprehensive solution to it. [passage omitted]

Karam: Has the GCC succeeded as an experiment and does it constitute a nucleus for an experiment on a larger scale?

Shaykh Khalifah Al Thani: We can see the achievements made by the GCC in various economic, political, security, and defense fields and in other areas—which is the best proof of its success.

We are proud that the world endorses the importance of these achievements and the GCC member states' ability to go forward to firmly establish pillars of cooperation and coordination in pursuit of the realization of their sublime objectives to bring prosperity for their peoples and the peoples of the entire Arab nation.

It pleases me to say that the fact that the Council has proceeded toward such objectives, overcoming numerous obstacles, is chiefly attributable to its eagerness to correctly assess the region's real circumstances and work toward finding suitable and practical solutions to them, especially as the Council places the higher common interests of its member states and the Arab nations in general above any other considerations. We hope that the continuation of this experiment's success will prompt all our Arab states to strengthen cooperation and integral ties among us all in every field.

Karam: Your Highness, do you visualize an imminent relaxation in the Lebanese crisis?

Shaykh Khalifah Al Thani: We all know that the Lebanese crisis is attributable to internal and external reasons. But undoubtedly the destructive civil war waging among the Lebanese brothers is the most important reason. It has destroyed Lebanon's foundations, fragmented its society, and destroyed its economy. Besides, the blood of thousands of its sons has been spilt and thousands of others have been made homeless.

If political differences are the main cause of this war, then securing a settlement for such differences in a way that would restore accord among the various Lebanese sects will be the means to end this war. It is really regrettable that there is unanimous agreement both

inside and outside Lebanon that such a task is the responsibility of the Lebanese first and last, but despite this the bloody conflict is still continuing among them.

The duty of Arab states is to provide fraternal Lebanon with every possible support to ease as much as possible the severity of its crisis. But the relaxation you mention can only be achieved via constructive brotherly dialogue among the Lebanese brothers themselves. If such a dialogue is held in an atmosphere in which Lebanese higher interests take priority, the relaxation we are all looking for will be achieved so that Lebanon can restore its freedom, sovereignty, security, and unity—which are the constituents of the important positive role that Lebanon has always played in the service of its Arab nation and its crucial issues.

Karam: In view of current efforts to speed up the convening of an international conference, do you believe progress has been made regarding a solution to the Middle East problem?

Shaykh Khalifah Al Thani: The extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman resulted in Arab unanimity that the convening of an international peace conference would be the correct way to resolve the Middle East problem both justly and comprehensively. There is international approval of this formula as a positive means toward a solution. Furthermore, the uprising of the brave Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories has effectively reminded the international community—if it needed to be reminded at all—that they can no longer tolerate the oppression they are suffering while waiting for the results of peace efforts to restore their rights.

All these factors carry weight in terms of activating the peace process in the Middle East. I think if the Arab and Islamic nations settle their affairs and unite both their stands and their ranks—using every element of power in the various political, economic, and strategic fields to advance this process toward the solution sought for the Middle East crisis—this would, in the current situation, produce positive results in terms of the convening of the desired international peace conference, thus paving the way toward a solution. [passage omitted]

Karam: As some Arab states have restored their diplomatic relations with Egypt, how does Your Highness visualize Egypt's return to the Arab League?

Shaykh Khalifah Al Thani: The Arab states' restoration of diplomatic relations with the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt will obviously have a deep impact in increasing the effectiveness of common Arab action on the fateful challenges facing our Arab nation at this sensitive stage in history. The fact is that Egypt has never abandoned its natural major role in confronting the enemies of the Arab nation and defending its dignity, higher interests, and fateful causes.

But undoubtedly comprehensive Arab solidarity pooling Arab efforts to achieve our common aims in the service of our nation and its prosperity would enhance the effectiveness of the role which we are all familiar with, thus achieving our objectives. Without such comprehensive Arab solidarity, none of us will be able to achieve anything of significance in this regard. Our recent experiment, namely, the fragmentation of our ranks and subsequent bitter results, is the best proof of this.

Probably our knowledge of these facts inspires us to hope Egypt will return to the Arab League in the near future.

Saudi Arabia

Moves Against Iranian Haj Pilgrims Denied

LD292110 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] In reply to the allegations made by some Iranian officials recently concerning the existence of a tendency to prevent Iranian pilgrims from performing the pilgrimage this year, a responsible source at the Ministry of Pilgrimage Affairs and Religious Trusts told SPA the allegations are absolutely false.

The responsible source added: The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has no intention of preventing any Muslim from performing the pilgrimage and the Ministry of Pilgrimage Affairs and Religious Trusts will, as usual, accept those who come to the Kingdom on the haj mission for Islamic states at the fixed date, which will be announced by the ministry soon, God willing.

United Arab Emirates

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Abu Dhabi 29 Feb

JN291151 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Feb (INA)— Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, arrived here from Sanaa at noon today.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Receives Iraq's Ramadan 28 Feb

JN290639 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office in the Presidential Palace yesterday Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister. Ramadan arrived in Sanaa yesterday as special envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the brother president.

During the meeting Ramadan conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to the brother president on current Arab issues in light of regional, Arab, and international developments. The message also details the present situation on the Iraqi-Iranian front and the efforts of international parties and the United Nations to contain the war and to implement Resolution 598 which calls for an immediate end to the war to serve the interests of the two neighboring Muslim peoples.

Taha Yasin Ramadan assured the brother president of the Iraqi Army's ability and firmness in defending its land and sovereignty against any aggression.

The brother Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister praised the stands of our country, its leaders, government, and people on all pan-Arab issues, foremost among them the just Palestinian cause and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih emphasized our country's firm and principled stand in support of fraternal Iraq, as it is the side that has responded to all Arab, regional, and international efforts and mediations to end the destructive war between the two neighboring Muslim countries. He stressed that war brings only woe and destruction to both sides and benefits the Zionist enemy by wasting the energies and capabilities of Muslim countries which should have been directed against the common enemy usurping Muslim holy places in Jerusalem.

Ramadan Holds News Conference

JN291203 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Sanaa, 29 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has affirmed the Iraqi Armed Forces' readiness to wipe out any attempt by the Iranian aggressors. The RCC member said at a news conference held here today attended by Yemeni and Arab newsmen that the expansionist Iranian aggression is targeted not against Iraq only but against the Arab nation's existence and presence. He emphasized that Iraq, which has remained steadfast and triumphed over the Iranian aggression for the past 8 years and in the most difficult circumstances, is also capable of confronting the Zionist Khomeyniite aggression.

Ramadan called for supporting the heroic uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territory with all resources. He also called for supporting the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He noted that Iraq's decision to sponsor the families of the martyrs of the revolution of stones is dictated by our pan-Arab affiliation and solidarity with the Palestinian fighters in defense of Arab territory.

Ramadan praised relations between the two fraternal countries, Iraq and Yemen. He affirmed Iraq's concern to work in all fields to achieve a progressive and distinguished level of fraternal bilateral relations. He added that consultation and coordination between the two fraternal countries is continuous in all that concerns the Arab nation and its decisive issues. He noted that Iraq records with appreciation the courageous pan-Arab stand adopted by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Yemen's genuine people at the side of Iraq in its just war against the Iranian aggression.

UN Informed of Shelling; Reaction Threatened

JN010934 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] United Nations, 1 Mar (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations that it is compelled to decisively reply to the criminal murderers in Iran through the means which suit the Iranian regime's premeditated criminal acts. This came in a message delivered by Iraq's permanent UN representative to the UN secretary general last night.

The message stressed that the Iranian regime has once again proved its hostile intentions and implemented the war of cities as it did in the past, thus defying the will of the international community to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598. The permanent representative requested that the message be distributed and considered an official UN Security Council document.

The message referred to the Iraqi military spokesman's warning to Iran, which said that Iran's threats to shell what it described as economic and military installations in the cities of Basra and Baghdad are actually aimed at shelling cities, civilians, and strictly residential areas. The message added that Iraq has warned Iran that it will reply violently to enemy shelling of Baghdad, Basra, and the other Iraqi cities.

The message said: Despite these Iraqi warnings, the criminal Iranian rulers shelled Badrah, Khanaqin, Al-Qurnah, Al-Zubayr, and Basra throughout the night of the day before yesterday and until midday Monday with artillery and missile launchers. As a result of this shelling, a large number of civilians, including women and children, were martyred or wounded, and civilian property was destroyed. The message added that the Iranians used their weapons indiscriminately. The message warned that the Iranian regime has always ignited the war of cities in an attempt to divert attention from its rejection of peace and its insistence on continuing its aggressive war.

The message said that the evil Iranian regime has gone too far in its violations of international law, and in its hostility to humanity and insistence on continuing the war, killing, and destruction. It said that this regime has once again ignited the war of cities on the same old pretexts in order to divert attention from the consequences of its rejection of the UN Security Council resolution. The message pointed out that not even schoolchildren and hospital patients escaped the Iranian regime's shelling of civilians in Iraq during the past 8 years. The message referred to Iraq's welcome of and readiness to implement all the clauses of UN Security Council Resolution 598 in a manner that would achieve a comprehensive peace and end the sufferings resulting from this war.

'Punishing' of Iranians Urged

JN011015 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0918 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The United Nations, 1 Mar (INA)—Iraq has urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility in firmly confronting the savage Iranian regime "whose only policy in life is war and destruction."

In a message to the United Nations informing it that two Iranian missiles fell on residential districts in Baghdad on 29 February 1988, Iraq says such an attack makes it necessary more than any time in the past for the Security Council to seriously consider measures of punishing the Iranian regime for not acceding to the will of the international community to establish peace on the basis of observing Security Council Resolution 598.

The message says that cowardly crimes will not dissuade the Iraqi people from defending their land and sovereignty, exercising their right of self-defense, or from punishing the criminal aggressors.

Iraq had informed the United Nations that two surface-to-surface missiles fell on Baghdad on the morning of 29 February. According to a message conveyed by Iraq's permanent UN representative to the UN secretary general and which he requested be distributed as a UN Security Council document, the two missiles fell on two residential districts resulting in the death of Iraqi citizens, including children and women, in the wounding of others, including women and children, and in the destruction of residential homes and the damaging of residential homes, shops, and civilian cars.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,040

JN291801 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,040 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces, which are supported by God's victory and which are defending Iraqi territory, continue their heroic struggle, inflicting further losses on the Khomeyniites, our country's enemies. The results of our Armed Forces' activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. Proud Iraq is forging ahead from one victory to another on every battlefield. At 2255 [1955 GMT] last night, our valiant forces at the loading pier of the Al-'Amiq Port discovered eight enemy boats attempting to approach them. Our forces engaged them with various types of weapons and succeeded in destroying and sinking five of them, including their scoundrel occupants.

The remaining boats fled. God bless you, O heroic and loyal men of the Al-'Amiq Port and our courageous Navy. Praise be to God for His victory.

2. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: killing 33 scoundrels; wounding other scoundrels; destroying 1 tank and 1 armored personnel carrier; destroying 1 bulldozer [preceding word in English] and damaging another; and setting ablaze and destroying 10 assorted vehicles and damaging 2 others.

3. Three enemy personel were killed and one machinegun and one 30-mm launcher were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akhbar Forces.

4. Two scoundrels were killed and one DShK machinegun and one observation post were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah five enemy troops were killed; one infantry position, one observation post, and one heavy machinegun were destroyed; two vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed; and one ammunition dump was blown up.

6. Five observation posts and one infantry position were destroyed and one enemy vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. One infantry position and one observation post were destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

8. In the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris one tank and one infantry position were destroyed.

9. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector engaged enemy units opposite them and managed to achieve the following: killing 13 scoundrels; destroying 1 106-mm gun and 1 machinegun; destroying 3 infantry positions and 1 observation post; destroying 1 shovel [preceding word in English]; setting ablaze and destroying 2 vehicles; and blowing up 2 ammunition dumps.

10. After it as failed to face Iraq's victorious troops, the Iranian regime—which ignited this war, insists on perpetuating it, and ignores the international will on the need to end it—affirms its rancor against our people and its destructive, barbarous course. That regime also affirms its lack of responsibility toward its people and toward the catastrophes they are facing as a result of its crimes and its continuation of barbarous practices.

Last night, the regime of charlatans fired two missiles, supplied to it by the enemies of the Arab nation, at Baghdad at 0250 today [2305 GMT on 28 February] [time as heard]. The two missiles fell on two residential areas and resulted in the martyrdom of a number of our citizens, including women and children. Others were wounded, including women and children. A number of houses, shops, and civilian cars were also either destroyed or damaged.

We affirm that such cowardly acts will neither prevent our people from carrying out their heroic role in defense of their land and sovereignty nor will they prevent them from carrying out their cultural role. We affirm the contents of the Armed Forces General Command communique issued yesterday, stating that, until further notice, all Iranian cities are targets for our heroic Air Force and gigantic missile force. The supporters of Zionism, the criminal rulers of Tehran, will ultimately be the losers.

The criminal Khomeyniites continued to shell residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra and the villages of Al-Qurnah, Khanaqin, and Sirwan with long-range artillery last night and today. The deliberate criminal shelling martyred a number of civilians, including women and children, and wounded other civilians, also including women and children. The shelling damaged a number of houses and shops. Paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 February 1988

3 Missiles Fired on Tehran

JN291912 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1820 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,041 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great and we thank Him. As is always the case, proud Iraq under the great hero Saddam Husayn implements what it says. From the premise of our people's will that was expressed in the Armed Forces General Command's communique issued yesterday, that all Iranian cities, including the capital Tehran, will be targets for our heroic Air Force and our giant missile force; in view of the Iranian regime's continued crimes against our beloved cities, foremost being Baghdad, our beloved capital, the beacon of progress, the cradle of civilization, and the immortal gem throughout history, not to mention our great Basra and all the Iraqi cities and villages; to avenge our innocent martyrs as an expression of the undauntable strength of our country, our giant missile force carried out three strikes with Iraqi missiles.

May God bless these Iraqi missiles, which were produced by Iraqi creativity under the guidance of the leader, and produced by the skilled hands of the Iraqis. These missiles were offered by the men of the military industries to the leader of Iraq, the people of Iraq, and the Arab nation. These men have brought back to mind the creativity of the individual on this land and his boundless ability to master and assimilate scientific progress.

Great Iraqis, the Iraqi missiles pounded Tehran, the capital of the despot and aggressor charlatans at 1745 [1445 GMT], 1755, and 1808 today. Your missiles reached their targets, over the heads of the Khomeyniites and inside their capital, with the accuracy required to tear up the body of vice, demolish the dens of devils, and exact punishment for our righteous martyrs. We publicly declare that our missiles will continue all night to shell the city of Tehran until it is demolished over their heads.

Let the world at large hear the resounding voice of great Iraq, the voice of the militant homeland, the voice of the homeland that advocates justice and peace, the voice of the homeland that calls for construction, and the voice of the homeland whose glory has been revived and which is being steered toward glory and dignity by the grandson of the prophet of mercy, the hero Saddam Husayn.

Let the whole world hear that the peoples' will cannot be defeated. Let the whole world also hear that the supporters of backwardness and the leaders of savagery cannot obstruct history or make time run backward. Let the whole world hear that Iraq has triumphed, Iraq has triumphed, Iraq has triumphed. All attempts at tyranny and deception will not do harm to a homeland that has handed the banner to the best, most generous man, who is most faithful to the land of missions and who is the proudest, most determined, and most capable of confronting circumstances. He is our great Saddam, who is a unique historic leader.

O valiant Iraqis, congratulations to you, to your brave Armed Forces, to the military industries men, and to your glorious Arab nation on these two immortal victories—the victory of the military industries' manufacture of long-range missiles, and the victory of retaliation against the enemies of both God and man.

Let men sing loudly, let women rejoice, and let children's songs fill the atmosphere. Long live our leader, who is our captain who safely takes us to the remote ports of light, our beloved Saddam. Glory to our great people. Our last prayer is that we thank God, the Lord of the universe.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 February 1988

2 More Missiles Fired on Tehran

JN292110 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2038 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,042 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We are fulfilling our pledge, mentioned in the Armed Forces General Command communique issued tonight, to continue striking Tehran, the capital of the charlatans, all through this night, until we demolish their dens over their heads, and avenge their crimes against our people and nation. We are translating into reality our country's boundless ability to pound the dens of evil and aggression. We also want to rob Khomeyni, the charlatan of the 20th century, of his sleep and to add further unprecedented calamities that he cannot endure.

We also want to remind his followers, the agents of Zionism, that they have committed the gravest mistake ever committed by a ruler when, prodded by their racist intentions, they tried to attack Iraq's border and security. We also want to demonstrate to them through cogent proof that they have overstepped their size and capabilities by pursuing this course.

Our heroic missile force carried out two strikes with long-range Iraqi-made missiles, the first at 2310 [2010 GMT] tonight and the second at 2320. The Iraqi missiles reached the capital of the enemies and hit their targets very accurately, thus demonstrating our country's success in the field of advanced military industry, as is the case in other fields, thanks to God and the directives of our beloved leader Saddam Husayn, and the efforts of the military industries men. We thank God for enabling us to overpower our enemy, for granting us a leader like our leader, for bestowing victory on us, and for including us among His righteous and militant followers.

Proceed forward toward new victories until our enemy admits the virtues of peace. God supports us at all times.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 February 1988

3d Volley of Missiles

JN292213 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2122 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 29 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On this blessed night, which will remain immortal in the annals of history, the Iraqis have demonstrated that they are those who safeguard their history, civilization, and sanctities. They have also shown that they are the loyal defenders of their land, people, and dignity, and the ones who are capable of taking vengeance on their enemy.

On this blessed night, the thirst of every Iraqi, Arab, and every honest man will be quenched. The missiles of justice will continue to rob the evildoers of their sleep and will continue to terrorize the pretenders, whose minds are full of evil thoughts and designs. On this blessed night, the enemies sit awake from their fear and terror. The Iraqis, along with all good men, will remain awake to rejoice over the great and splendid achievement, which is a decisive turning point in the course of the war and in the history of the conflict between freedom and slavery, between progress and backwardness. God is our witness and the events, particularly the events tonight, show that we have been brought up by the

leader who, thanks to his wisdom, courage, and his abidance by the values of mankind, has taught us that if we want to say something we must be capable of carrying out what we say.

From the premise of the pledge we have made, this is your night of vengeance, O beloved children, O blossoms of the Balat al-Shuhada' school who were assassinated by the hands of evil. This is also your night, O our righteous martyrs in the quarters and streets of Al-Yarmuk, Al-Dawrah, Al-Khullani, Al-'Ulwiyah, and Al-Qahirah. This is your night, O our righteous martyrs in Basra, the great port of Iraq, and in its suburb of Al-Zubayr. This is your night, O our righteous martyrs in Al-Qurnah, the meeting point of the two great rivers.

This is your night of vengeance, O our righteous martyrs in Khanaqin, Qal'at Dizah, Bimalik, and the Dahuk hospital, and all the other martyrs whose memory will continue to remain vivid in our minds for as long as we live.

This is your night of vengeance, you who are in heaven. It is the night of the great victory for your country over the hands that are sullied with crime and disgrace.

Tonight, for the third time, our gigantic missile force carried out two strikes with long-range Iraqi-made missiles, the first at 2355 [2055 GMT] and the second at 0015 [2115 GMT]. Our missiles reached their targets in Tehran, destroyed them, and terrified every infidel oppressor. This is only a small part of what the Iraqis will do. We will continue strikes tonight and in the coming nights. Those who thought that wars are won by empty claims, suspect alliances, and cheap lies should know that wars are won by the jihad of peoples, by the noble target for which they are fighting, and by the wisdom of their leadership. Lying has never led to victory; nor did it prevent defeat or stand up to truth and right.

Blessed be your night, O glorious Iraqis. Blessed be your victory and the fruit of your jihad. Congratulations to you on having beloved leader Saddam Husayn. God be with you in your effort and jihad.

[Dated] 1 March 1988

More Missiles on Tehran

JN010600 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 1 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It is the men's oath not to lift the huge hammers off the empty heads. As we pledged to our people, we will continue to destroy the dens of fraud and charlatanism, the heads of sedition, and the warmongers, with our long-range Iraqi-made missiles, in order to bring down their dens on top of them in their capital, Tehran.

Implementing the pledge we made in the Armed Forces General Command communique, our heroic missile force carried out two strikes with long-range Iraqi-made missiles, the first at 0422 [0122 GMT] today and the second at 0444 [0144 GMT]. Our missiles have reached the capital of charlatans, hit their targets accurately, retaliated against the enemy, and destroyed and frightened the Tehran rulers' hearts. Long live our leader, beloved Saddam. Glory to you O struggler military industries men, and all praise be to you O men of our heroic missiles forces.

[Dated] 1 March 1988.

5th Attack Reported

JN010641 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0616 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 1 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God for his victory. Our heroic missile force has continued to destroy the dens of tyranny and aggression in their capital, Tehran. For the fifth time our missiles poured their huge destructive power and their accurate hits on their targets, to make charlatan Khomeyni and all those with hollow ears, which prevent them from hearing facts, hear the voice of triumphant Iraq, the voice of peace and freedom, and the voice of the homeland, which has struggled and is struggling relentlessly in defense of its territory and sovereignty.

At 0837 today [0537 GMT] our missile force dealt a blow to the city of Tehran. At 0910 today, our missile force also dealt a similar blow to the city of Tehran. Our missiles have violently destroyed their targets. These are blows which please the friend and anger the enemy after an immortal night, during which the Iraqis demonstrated their struggle and persistent action for the sake of a sound, healthy society, whose example deserves to be followed by all peoples.

[Dated] 1 March 1988.

Missiles Carry 'Revenge'

JN010914 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0707 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that the missiles directed by Iraqis toward their targets in Tehran "have eloquently expressed the Iraqi people's revenge for their good martyrs." In an editorial today AL-THAWRAH says: Iraqi blows have once again tangibly demonstrated that Iraq is the stronger side and the more capable of holding on to victory, and that Iraq's capability is impregnable and cannot be undermined.

The paper adds: Iraq's mighty missile power, with which it pounded Tehran throughout last night, is clear and tangible proof that Iraq is victorious in the war and that

the defeated Tehran regime will remain defeated and incapable of transgressing against Iraqi territory, security, and national sovereignty. It is another sign of the clear and big Iraqi victory.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Iraqi blows once again confirm that the Iranian regime's wagering on the war of cities, and on its calculations and aims in kindling such a war anew, is stupid as well as a total loser. Such a wager will bring only further destruction, frustration, and misery, contrary to all the illusions of Iran's Zionist rulers and their evil calculations.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the Iraqi missiles that pounded Tehran last night will shake and confuse the Iranian situation, exacerbate the collapse of morale in the ranks of the aggressor Iranian forces, strengthen the Iranians' growing feeling of frustration and defeat, and will weaken their will to continue the war more than any time in the past.

AL-THAWRAH says the night of missiles will compel the war criminals ruling Tehran to radically review their plans for expansion and aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation, and to absorb the significance of the deterrent and painful Iraqi lesson.

AL-THAWRAH warns the Tehran rulers of the consequences of their policy of aggression. The paper says Iraqi missiles will continue to fall on their cities and dens, and the Tehran rulers will bear the responsibility for the consequences of their persistence in their policy of crime and aggression.

6th Missile Volley Launched

JN011052 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1029 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 1 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic missile force has continued to destroy the city of Tehran, the capital of aggressors, who insist on continuing the war and on rejecting the will of the international community regarding the need to end this war and to avert its catastrophes from the people. For the sixth time, the long-range Iraqi-made missiles poured on their targets in Tehran, turning them into rubble. With God's help, at 1247 today [0947 GMT], a missile strike was dealt to the city of Tehran.

At 1325 another blow was also dealt to the capital, Tehran. We hope the Khomeyniites will realize their size and their fragile wall. After this disgrace which we have appropriately inflicted on them, they should fear God in their people and admit that victory has already been decided in favor of Iraq, that all their false claims, evil attempts, and hidden intentions will never be useful to them in the eyes of God and history, and that they will never achieve their aspirations. On the contrary, their evil intentions will bring them more defeats. Iraq has never been and will never be a wasteland for anyone. Glory and pride for our people and their men of the military industries and missile force. March ahead to achieve new victories under the banners of our beloved leader Saddam Husayn.

[Dated] 1 March 1988.

Shelling of Basra Continues

JN011001 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—The Iranian regime continued its shelling of residential areas in the city of Basra, southern Iraq, this morning. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA today that the premeditated Iranian shelling had martyred and wounded several civilians, including a number of women and children, and damaged several houses.

Sha'ban Denies U.S. Remarks on Gulf Missile

JN291855 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Hasan al-Khashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Iraqi Air Force, today replied to Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, who on 16 February expressed concern over the passing of an Iraqi missile near a U.S. ship. Lt Gen Hamid Sha'ban said: We do not direct our fire to any target before we make sure, through accurate and effective means, that it is the set target and that it is either leaving or going to Iran. No mistake was made, with the exception of the incident of the frigate "Stark." Even in this incident no proof has been established that it was due to an error by the Iraqi pilot.

Regarding the incident about which Armitage expressed concern, Lt Gen Hamid Sha'ban told the international edition of the Baghdad newspaper AL-THAWRAH, which will be published in London tomorrow, that an Iraqi aircraft fired a missile at an Iranian target and hit it. He added that both the target and the missile were far from the U.S. ship. Therefore, he said, all that was said about a potential danger facing the U.S. ship was mere speculation and exaggeration in depicting the incident.

The Iraqi Air Force commander said he disagrees with Armitage's so-called dangerous practices of the Iraqi aircraft. He added that the potential dangers may or may not occur in accordance with the precautionary criteria and their effectiveness and the technical precision in implementing them. These, he said, are perfectly observed in the Iraqi Air Force's activity.

The ranking Iraqi military official stressed that Iraq insists on using its right to cut off supplies to Iran and said that the United States realizes more than others the importance of cutting off supplies in war, as it practiced

this on a large scale during World War II and the Korean and Vietnamese wars. Nobody can ask Iraq to freeze one of the effective means that force Iran to accept peace.

The Iraqi Air Force, as Baghdad has emphasized, will reply to the Iranian shelling of cities and will continue to strike at Iranian supplies.

'Aziz Meets With Red Cross; POW's Discussed

JN282118 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Andrei Paskei, director of operations in the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], and Michail Amikei, director of the Middle East Department in the ICRC. [names and titles as received] During the meeting, they reviewed the conditions of the Iraqi POW's in Iran and the conditions of the Iranian POW's in Iraq. 'Aziz stressed that Iraq is meeting its obligation toward the Iranian POW's honorably and precisely, in accordance with the Geneva Convention. This has been confirmed by ICRC reports and by those who visited the prison camps in Iraq.

'Aziz added that Iraq's position is in line with its humanitarian policy and its compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law. This policy is also in harmony with Iraq's desire to end the sufferings of the Iranian aggression, which has been continuing for 8 years, pointing out that Iraq has welcomed Security Council Resolution No 598, which can solve all aspects of the dispute between the two sides, including the sufferings of the POW's. 'Aziz also expressed Iraq's dissatisfaction with Iran's refusal to apply the Geneva Convention to the Iraqi POW's, its inhuman treatment of them, and its physical and psychological torture of these POW's to serve its hostile, expansionist dreams. He said that this expresses their rancorous, criminal approach.

'Aziz also called on the ICRC to assume its full responsibilities toward protecting POW's from the Iranian authorities' flagrant persecution. He also urged the international community to assume its responsibilities in this regard, and to adopt a stand in accordance with international conscience and law toward Iran's criminal actions.

Attending the meeting were the heads of the legal and international organizations departments of the Foreign Ministry.

Shultz Continues Talks With Leaders on U.S. Plan

Shamir 'Satisfied' With Talks

TA292044 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the latter's office in Jerusalem has ended. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's spokesman, reported at the end of the meeting that it was a very friendly talk. The topic for discussion was the talks Shultz held in Amman today. Pazner reported that the prime minister was satisfied with Shultz' round of talks.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel points out that in his talks in Jerusalem, Shultz stressed the importance he attributes to his meeting tomorrow with King Husayn in London. After that meeting, Shultz will decide whether to return to Washington or to return to the Middle East for an additional round of talks.

Agrees to International 'Event'

TA010526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is prepared for opening the political process with an event sponsored by the two superpowers, while Jordan adheres to its demand for an international conference with the participation of the five permanent UN Security Council members. This was announced last night at the end of Secretary Shultz' talks in Jerusalem and before his departure for London this morning for a meeting with King Husayn which is defined as a crucial one.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in London Shultz and Husayn will discuss the timetable, the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the substance of the interim arrangement. According to the results of the meeting, Secretary Shultz will decide whether or not to return to the region this week, for another shuttle trip.

Yesterday Shultz wound up the current round of talks in meetings with the prime minister and with Minister Peres. This morning the Inner Cabinet will meet to discuss the results of the U.S. secretary's talks in Jordan and Egypt.

'Recognizes' UN Resolution 242

TA010645 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary Shultz is winding up a first shuttle trip in the Middle East and leaves for London for a meeting with King Husayn. Tomorrow Mr Shultz will meet with President Reagan in Brussels, and the two will consult on how to promote the peace process in the Middle East.

It transpires from yesterday's talks in Jerusalem that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is prepared to recognize UN Resolution 242 as a platform for political negotiations, but is not interested, at this stage, to engage in interpreting this resolution or the question as to whether the principle of territories for peace is contained in it. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Mr Shamir is prepared to have a symbolic opening ceremony for the peace talks with the participation of the two superpowers, but is still opposed to the international conference format.

The Inner Cabinet is meeting this morning for a political discussion in the wake of Shultz' talks, but no decisions are expected.

Novik Assesses Prospects

TA292034 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Interview with the Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, by Daniyel Pe'er—live]

[Text] [Pe'er] Good evening, Dr Novik.

[Novik] Good evening.

[Pe'er] You were present at tonight's meeting between Secretary Shultz and Mr Peres. Is there any basis on which to continue the process?

[Novik] Yes, absolutely. It is his opinion that the principal basis for...

[Pe'er, interrupting] Excuse me, whose opinion?

[Novik] Mr Shultz', he is the one who has seen all the parties. It is his assessment that the principal basis is the fact that all the parties he has met with share the opinion that something should be done, and should be done now. The differences are considerable, the problems serious, but he is far from giving up.

[Pe'er] Then what keeps him afloat? What provides him with a springboard to proceed?

[Novik] He has arrived in the region very carefully prepared. They have considered many alternatives. I do not believe there were many things he heard here that took him by surprise. His solutions include many options, various divergent routes he can take. I assume he will not formulate the final conclusion regarding the specifics of his next step, whether to return to the region on Thursday, or tour the region again at a later stage, before he meets with King Husayn, which will be the decisive and conclusive meeting.

[Pe'er] He also heard today from the Jordanians. What did he hear? I mean, there is an impression that they have retreated somewhat from past agreements.

[Novik] No, not from past agreements. As in any negotiations, however, before the parties agree to the last line, they hold bargaining positions. It is true for us, and for others as well. Negotiating is the profession of the secretary of state. He knows perfectly well that before making the last concession, each party will try to take hold of another asset in the framework of negotiations.

Today Mr Shultz heard of two main areas of concern from the Jordanians. This probably did not surprise him either. The first was Jordan's fear that if the negotiations end at the stage of an interim settlement, Israel will be very pleased and this will be the end of it. We will get bogged down in that stage and never proceed to the final settlement. Here his plan offers a solution in that it sets a fixed date to enter into negotiations over the permanent solution.

The second concern is an expression of the fear of some people in Jordan that some people in Israel interpret resolution 242—which was the basis for all our negotiations to date, including the Camp David Accords and the peace agreement—as not involving an element of territories in the Jordanian context. Some Jordanians fear that and would like the United States to take action in this sphere and to give them some guarantees.

[Pe'er] Tomorrow he will hold a very important meeting with King Husayn in London. Could he give him some answers that would allay his fears?

[Novik] I presume that a lot would also depend on the meeting that is currently underway in the prime minister's office. I cannot emphasize more strongly what the secretary of state mentioned once again this evening, and repeated in Jordan, Cairo, and Jerusalem, which is that everyone shares the feeling that something must be done. The gaps are not negligible, the problems are not simple—if they were, we would not have needed U.S. mediation—but he is determined to take action in a bid to try to bridge those gaps.

[Pe'er] Is the United States only mediating between Israel and Arabs, or is it also mediating between the two factions at home?

[Novik] He is not mediating between the two sides here. Naturally he briefs and updates everyone and hears the positions of all the sides, but this is not exactly mediation between the two parties here.

[Pe'er] Another matter is the Palestinians. He is very interested in meeting with a Palestinian delegation. What did Israel have to say about the vigorous U.S. efforts in that direction?

[Novik] The fact of the matter is that this was a U.S. invitation and our sanctioning of this move was never required. No one ignores the basic fact that without a Palestinian component in the Jordanian delegation there will not be any negotiations. Hence the great importance of consolidating a representative Palestinian group. I am not sure that the group he was about to meet, or the one he is scheduled to meet, will be the one that would ultimately represent the Palestinians, but we certainly welcome a U.S. attempt to enter into a dialogue with the inhabitants of the territories in a bid to try to find some leadership that would join the Jordanian delegation.

[Pe'er] Finally, you met Shultz several times, including just now, or rather a short time ago. In what kind of mood is he leaving the country?

[Novik] I think that the main characteristic—and this began this morning—was the feeling of great confidence. Not necessarily that things would succeed, but that he is convinced that he is doing the right thing from the American point of view and from the standpoint of the current needs of this region.

[Pe'er] And he still feels this way?

[Novik] I sincerely hope so.

[Pe'er] Thank you very much, Dr Novik.

Ben-Aharon on Bridging 'Gaps'

TA010531 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The director general of the prime minister's office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, last night expressed satisfaction at the talks, saying he could not speak yet of optimism. That will have to come when negotiations begin. He said the stage of gathering information on the parties' positions now appears over. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked whether the discussions are now focusing on issues like the international conference and the linkage between an interim and a permanent settlement.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] I wouldn't identify one specific item or more which is a focus of attention. The Americans have tried a whole range of concepts with us, and these include both schedules and a number of concepts or chapters that have to be timed in accordance with this schedule that they have given us. We have addressed ourselves to the totality of the package. It's a concept that is built, as I said, of a number of chapters. Now it is for them—and we will be there at their disposal in order to provide further clarifications—and, as I said, it's for them to decide to what extent there is a capacity to bridge over the gaps between our positions and those of Jordan.

[Ben-'Ami] Has there been any hint at all of U.S. pressure toward Israel or the possibility of this in the future?

[Ben-Aharon] None whatsoever. Pressure just doesn't exist in this situation. Nobody is even hinting at anything like it. The secretary of state expressed a lot of support and admiration for the prime minister, and he said he will not do anything that would constitute any kind of intention,

negative of any sort, or any kind of harm to Israel because that would undermine the whole approach and the whole concept that the Americans have adopted.

[Ben-'Ami] Later today the secretary will be meeting King Husayn. A lot of people see that as the crucial meeting in this stage of the mission. Do you share that assessment?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, since King Husayn is the king of Jordan and he makes the final decisions, I would imagine that there is importance to this meeting because he is the final arbiter and the presenter of the Jordanian position. We have heard from the secretary about Jordanian concerns and, to some extent, about their position. But I would imagine the Jordanian position will be clear in his mind only after this meeting that is scheduled for Tuesday. [end recording]

Shultz Leaves for London

TA010914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz says at the end of his round of talks in the region that no element upheld his proposals, but, he stressed, everybody expects the United States to continue its action, and it will do so. We are in the midst of a work process, he added.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Secretary Shultz said this a short while ago at Ben-Gurion Airport, prior to taking off for London to confer with King Husayn and Prime Minister Thatcher.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 1 March in a follow-up report adds: "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who saw Shultz off, said he does not believe that Husayn will change his demand for an international opening."]

In Jerusalem, the Inner Cabinet is being briefed this morning about the results of Secretary Shultz' talks in Jordan and in Egypt.

No Change Seen in Husayn Stand

TA011157 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Excerpts] In the coming hours U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is slated to meet with King Husayn in London, a meeting which is defined by observers as crucial for the continuation of the peace talks. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who accompanied Shultz to the plane at Ben-Gurion Airport told our correspondent that only after Shultz meets with Husayn and briefs President Reagan in Brussels tomorrow will we know whether he will or will not return to our region this week. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports:

[Begin recording] [Eshel] [Passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres interprets Shultz' remarks for us.

[Peres] The gaps which exist have been no surprise. Nevertheless, all sides have been cautious not to say no for the time being.

[Eshel] I asked the foreign minister whether one can expect a breakthrough from the Shultz-Husayn meeting?

[Peres] I do not know what you call a breakthrough, but as for the international conference, the Americans have adopted a position, and I do not think Husayn will change his own position. In my opinion, if one wants Jordan as a negotiating partner, this will be impossible without an international opening. It is possible to have others without an international opening. Still, since I am not proposing to hold negotiations with the PLO, I am proposing an international opening, in the Jordanian direction, rather than being left, as miserable orphans politically, with the PLO. [end recording]

Over 50 Percent Support Plan

TA291400 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Feb 88 p 1

[DAHAF Institute Poll]

[Text] A majority of 51 percent supports in general terms the Shultz initiative, compared with 40 percent who reject it. This was one of the findings in a public opinion poll held 18 to 25 February. A representative sample of 1,156 people were polled in person.

Question: Do you think the government should or should not, accept the Shultz initiative in its general form? (The answers are given in percentages)

Yes	No	No Opinion
51	40	9

Peres Said To Agree to Negotiation With PLO

TA010856 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Yes to the PLO; no to 'Arafat—this formula by Husayn has been adopted by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Begin Peres recording] Look, one should carefully listen to what Husayn is saying. Everyone has his own nuances. Husayn says he wants the PLO but without 'Arafat. Let us go along with him on this formula of PLO, yes and 'Arafat, no. Still, I do not want a Palestinian state, as such a state would mean a Palestinian army, possibly with Soviet arms, in parts of Judaea and Samaria. That is why I oppose this. [end recording]

Peres was talking before students in Elat yesterday, and our correspondent Me'ir Suissa recorded his remarks.

Statement 'Made Clear'

TA011150 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 March 88

[Text] The foreign minister's spokesman today made clear: Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres flatly rejects any negotiations with the PLO. He views a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, excluding the PLO, as the only partner for negotiations.

Frayj Suggests BENELUX Arrangement in Mideast

TA291546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has suggested a political framework resembling BENELUX, with the participation of Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that Mr Frayj made this suggestion in a closed meeting with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations currently convening in Jerusalem, after being promised that his remarks would not be leaked. He said that the Palestinian Charter is dead, and that it is possible to find ways to attain peace between the two nations.

Many members of the Conference of Presidents levelled criticism at Mr Frayj for his refusal to meet with George Shultz. Some of them told our correspondent that the fact that a courageous Arab leader such as Frayj is afraid to meet with Secretary of State Shultz shows that the Palestinians are not ready yet for overt negotiations.

MAPAM Secretary Granot Leaves for PRC Visit

TA010757 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] MAPAM Secretary El'azar Granot is arriving in Beijing today for a 10-day visit. In the course of his visit he will confer with senior officials. Granot was officially invited for this visit, and the visit constitutes a precedent. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that prior to his departure for the PRC, the MAPAM secretary received briefings, from Foreign Minister Peres, among others.

Composition of Delegation to USSR Finalized

TA010547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has finalized the composition of the Israeli diplomatic delegation that will leave for the Soviet Union in the near future. Our political correspondent has learned that the delegation includes two medium-level diplomats who serve in Western European countries and two technical workers. The names of the delegation members will be sent to Moscow today, and after arrangements are completed, the delegation will leave for the USSR for 2 months.

Rabin Favors Criticism of Politicians, Not IDF

TA011623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The defense minister says that it is the Cabinet which defines policies. If someone wishes to express criticism, he should not lash out at the soldiers, but at those who were responsible for ordering the task to be done. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Minister Rabin made these remarks at an officers' candidate graduation ceremony.

Mr Rabin counseled the European countries and the United States to refrain from instructing us on proper conduct. He advised them to look back at their own past—distant and not so distant—before daring to denounce Israel and the IDF soldiers. The defense minister added that many of us should also hold our tongues rather than criticize the IDF soldiers and commanders both in the media and in the Knesset.

Minister Rabin said that the IDF is the common denominator uniting the nation and the state.

Addressing the cadets he said that he hoped the difficult task imposed on them in the territories, as well as in the training itself, have reinforced their belief in the justice of our methods, as well as the occasional necessity to use force while not forgetting the limits.

Shomron Addresses Knesset on Qabatiyah Incident

TA011204 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron today appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in a meeting which discussed the latest incidents in Qabatiyah, and the detention and subsequent release of the four soldiers who beat two stone throwers in Nabulus. In the course of the meeting criticism was leveled at the IDF for not having acted in Qabatiyah on time, and the arrows of two Likud Knesset members [MK's] were clearly directed at Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command. MK Pinhas Goldstein called for his replacement, while MK David Magen termed him the commander of the central verbosity.

IDF Spokesman Opposes Media Ban Proposal

TA011124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The IDF spokesman is firmly opposed to the proposal to close down the territories before the media. In a meeting with high school students in Ramat Hasharon, Brigadier General Efrayim Lapid said that the journalists' presence does indeed inflame spirits but, in his opinion, it is impossible to close down all roads in the territories, and rumors about incidents there would cause greater damage than what is caused now. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that the IDF spokesman emphasized that the army

will not let go unnoticed the behavior of soldiers such as that shown in the CBS film, but will not abandon the soldiers filmed by this network either.

Hanna Sinyurah, Fayiz Abu Rahmah Leave for FRG

TA010559 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Relative quiet has prevailed in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza overnight. A Molotov cocktail was thrown last night at an Israeli vehicle near Solomon's Pools. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Moti Amir updates the situation in the territories.

[Begin recording] The trend of calm in the territories is continuing. Almost no incidents were recorded last night. A lively traffic of workers from the territories to Israel is noticeable this morning.

Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah are leaving for the FRG today. They will meet with the German foreign minister and other administration officials, and will explain the situation in the territories to them. In a talk with Hanna Sinyurah this morning Sinyurah stressed that the trip had been preplanned and has nothing to do with the report published today whereby a new Palestinian delegation is organizing to meet with George Shultz. According to Sinyurah, if Shultz was indeed convinced to add three PLO representatives to the delegation, this constitutes a significant breakthrough for promoting the peace process. In any case, it seems early to predict whether or not such a meeting will indeed take place.

Attorneys in the Gaza Strip yesterday decided to continue their strike. Fayiz Abu Rahmah, who is also the head of the regional attorneys' bureau, tried to hold a vote on returning to work, but not all of the attorneys were interested in voting. The attorneys decided that the strike can be ended only through a general assembly. [end recording]

More on Unrest, Related Events in Territories

Villagers: 'Liberated Areas'

TA011007 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 88 pp 1, 3

[Report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Two more inhabitants of the West Bank died after being hit by IDF fire. One was shot dead in the village of Burin near Nabulus during a violent riot, and another died at Rambam Hospital in Haifa of serious head wounds inflicted by IDF soldiers last Thursday.

Exact details about the incident in Burin were not disclosed. Official military sources said there had been a violent riot in which soldiers were attacked with stones and iron bars. When they failed to disperse the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets, the soldiers were forced to open fire in the direction of the legs.

A 17-year-old villager, Yasir Da'ud 'Id, was killed by the fire. He was taken to the hospital in Nabulus. He was diagnosed as having sustained a fatal wound in the neck and was later pronounced dead. Another villager was wounded in the palm of his hand.

The village had in recent days been blocked with stone barricades after rumors spread that settlers intended to raid it. Villagers argue that Israelis entered their village Saturday night, broke into the local clinic, opened fire at the house of a local resident, and later poured something greasy into the water well. Suspecting an attempt to poison the well, the villagers started to riot.

Violent riots also took place in the neighboring villages of Asirah al-Qibliyah and Ma'daba. It was learned that there were fire incidents, and several casualties were reported.

The funeral of 30-year-old Ahmad Bitawi, who died of a serious head injury inflicted by IDF fire during an incident last Thursday, was held in the refugee camp near Janin. The man had been hospitalized in 'Afula Hospital and later transferred to the neurosurgical ward at Rambam Hospital where he died of his wounds. His funeral yesterday turned into a mass riot.

Violent demonstrations also took place yesterday in the vicinity of Hebron and Ramallah and neighboring villages. Several villages north of Ramallah declared themselves "liberated areas": Palestine flags were posted on electricity poles in the center of the villages, nationalist Palestinian slogans were painted on the walls, and large barricades were erected at the entrance to the villages. [passage omitted]

Leaflets Call For Strikes

TA011201 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 March 88

[Text] The territories are reported relatively quiet this morning, but leaflets have been distributed throughout Arab villages calling for a series of strikes over the next week. More from reporter Steve Rodan:

Secretary of State George Shultz may have found the territories in turmoil last week, but on his departure the territories are quiet. Part of the reason appears to be the IDF maintaining curfews on five villages and refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria.

Still, Palestinian activists are not sleeping on the job. They distributed thousands of leaflets this morning calling for a series of strikes and demonstrations over the next week. This includes demonstrations by women, the raising of the PLO flag, culminating with a general strike next week. The leaflet calls on stores to remain open only 3 hours a day, and for Arab factories to work overtime to produce Palestinian goods.

The leaflet is the product of the PLO, and calls on Secretary of State George Shultz to speak with the PLO.

There is widespread disappointment in the Palestinian press this morning on the Shultz visit. AL-SHA'B criticizes Shultz for ignoring the Palestinian and Arab positions. AL-QUDS accuses Shultz of seeking to meet any Palestinians regardless of their authority. But perhaps the most revealing editorial was in the pro-Jordanian daily AL-NAHAR, which has been the target of a boycott and attack by pro-PLO supporters. The newspaper attacks Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for saying Israel must chose between either speaking to the PLO or Jordan. The headline of the AL-NAHAR editorial reads: The PLO and Jordan—Inseparable Twins.

Exports Allowed to Egypt, E. Europe

TA281249 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 28 Feb 88 p 1

[Financial correspondent report]

[Text] About 40 big Gaza citrus growers have been permitted by the Agriculture Ministry, at their request, to export fruit to Egypt and Eastern Europe. The consignments will be shipped via the port of Al-'Aqabah.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz noted that this is the first time these growers have been able to market their produce directly to Eastern Europe.

The Gaza Strip citrus growers have also obtained permission to dispatch 100 tons of citrus via the Jordan bridges to Jordan and to other Middle East countries.

'Spontaneous Boycott' by West Europe Feared

TA291051 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Two Dutch schools have refused to receive a visiting Israeli youth delegation, and Belgian officials are on the verge of boycotting Israel in the wake of the disturbances in the territories and Thursday's CBS report on the beatings in Nablus, according to reports reaching Jerusalem from embassies abroad.

Reports of cancellations of meetings with Israelis abroad and of trips to Israel, coupled with the unprecedented wave of protests following the CBS reports, have caused concern in Jerusalem that some countries in Western Europe may be on the verge of imposing a spontaneous boycott of Israel.

In Holland, two high schools refused to host a visiting Foreign Ministry-sponsored youth delegation; a concert for Israel, scheduled for March 6, has been called off; and some municipalities have announced that they will not attend the upcoming Twin Cities Conference in Jerusalem because of the unrest in the territories.

A delegation of Swiss army officers, which had accepted an IDF invitation for a week-long visit, has cancelled its trip, apparently at the suggestion of the Swiss Government.

Israeli diplomats in Belgium, commenting on the cancellation two weeks ago of a planned visit of the Belgian defence minister, as well as this week's cancellation of the visit of a purchase mission, said that a dangerous pattern of a total embargo on Israel is emerging.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday continued to be besieged with cables conveying vehement reactions to the CBS reports.

Some embassies reported that callers repeatedly described Israeli soldiers as "Nazis" and "fascists," while embassy officials in The Hague said that some people started crying on the phone, expressing their anguish over the pictures being screened on Dutch television.

Two hundred people demonstrated yesterday outside the Israel Embassy in Brussels to protest against what they called Israel's "barbaric repression."

28 Arab Labor Party Members Resign in Protest

TA281430 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 88 p 4

[Report by Qasim Zayyad]

[Text] In Baqa al-Gharbiyya 28 members of the Labor Party [LP] have resigned and returned their membership booklets to the LP Secretary General Knesset Member [MK] 'Uzi Bar'am.

These LP members have resigned in protest of the harsh policy initiated by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin against the residents of the occupied territories, and as a protest against the murder by Jewish settlers of a 13-year old girl from the village of Baqah al-Sharqiyah. They have not decided on their next move, but said that everything is open, and that they have no intention of joining the Arab party to be established by MK Darawshah. They will consider joining any party which guarantees Arab Israeli citizens' equality, and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate right to establish its state alongside the State of Israel.

The Baqa al-Gharbiyya LP Chairman Jalal Abu Husayn said that despite the party's difficulties in the Arab sector, his branch will continue functioning. He added that only a big party is capable of solving the Arab sector's difficult problems, and of promoting the peace process.

The Baqa al-Gharbiyya LP branch is one of the busiest in the country. It has recently received visits by the education minister, Rabin, Bar-Lev, and Deputy Agriculture Minister Katz-'Oz.

Further Reportage on Shultz-Hasan Talks 29 Feb

JN292029 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] A Jordanian team headed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and an American delegation headed by Secretary of State George Shultz held a meeting at the Hashemite Royal Court today. The two sides resumed talks begun on Saturday on the conditions in the region and ways of reaching a comprehensive, just, and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The regent restated Jordan's position, whose broad lines were defined in Saturday's first round of talks with Mr Shultz.

The regent explained that Jordan upholds Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which should be implemented through the convening of an international Middle East peace conference. He said the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation organization, should attend the conference.

The two sides exchanged views in an atmosphere of frankness and clarity as well as a keenness to continue working towards comprehensive peace process in the region. Both sides welcomed the continuation of Jordanian-American and Arab-American dialogue as part of the search for a just and comprehensive settleemnt of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Attending the talks for Jordan were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. The delegation accompanying Mr Shultz also attended.

Mr Shultz left Amman this afternoon. He was welcomed upon arrival and seen off on departure from Amman by Mr al-Masri, the U.S. ambassador in Amman, and a number of senior officials.

Senior Officials, PLO Discuss Shultz Visit

JN291126 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 27 Feb 88 pp 1, 21

[Rakan al-Majali dispatch]

[Text] Amman—AL-QABAS has learned that Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and member of the Fatah Central Council, held a number of meetings with senior Jordanian officials during the past 2 days to discuss the recent U.S. move and the visit to the region by George Shultz.

Reliable sources said that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides exchanged views vis-a-vis the objectives of the U.S. move. The two sides also agreed on specific answers to the U.S. side to be presented through Jordan upon Shultz' arrival. These sources said that the Jordanian-Palestinian stand is based on convening an international peace conference as the only way [to achieve peace]. It is also based on the fact that the Arab stand adheres to the Fes initiative agreed upon in the 1982 Fes summit, because this Arab peace initiative, which takes into consideration all the realities of the regional conflict, constitutes the minimum standard. It is also based on the resolutions adopted by the Amman summit and the Islamic summit in Kuwait, which constitute the only basis of the firm Arab and Islamic stand.

In another development, AL-QABAS has learned that intensive Palestinian-Jordanian contacts will take place in the wake of the U.S. secretary of state's regional visit; it is important for the two sides to embark on a move to support the uprising, considering that the aim of the recent U.S. move is to abort it. Therefore, the Palestinian-Jordanian action and the joint Arab action through the seven-member committee will continue supporting the uprising movement.

Informed sources said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Amman soon, after King Husayn returns to Amman this week. The sources added that 'Arafat's visit to Amman will come after his scheduled visit to Moscow which will take place soon. These sources said that 'Arafat's visit to Moscow at the head of a Palestinian delegation will be among the most important visits and contacts. This is because the talks with Jordan and the Arab parties will be in light of the Soviet stand and commitment to the attendance of an independent Palestinian delegation [at an international conference].

This visit will also clarify the reality of the Soviet commitment to the PLO attending as an independent delegation. The Palestinian delegation will also discuss in Moscow the issue of restoring relations between the USSR and Israel and the Soviet Jews' emigration, in light of the uprising movement which has exposed the U.S. claims on human rights. Jordan attaches great importance to the Soviet stand toward Palestinian participation [in an international conference]. This visit will also expose the U.S. claims on the existence of an understanding with regard to the present U.S. peace plan.

Al-Rifa'i Receives UK's Mellor 29 Feb

JN291306 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i this morning received in his office David Mellor, state minister for foreign affairs at the British Foreign Office. They reviewed Mideast developments and the situation in the occupied land against the background of the popular uprising as well as current ideas to advance the peace process.

The prime minister repeated Jordan's rejection of partial, separate solutions and its adherence to an international conference as the only vehicle available for working out just, durable peace. He reiterated that the conference must group the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties concerned, including the PLO. Al-Rifa'i voiced Jordan's thanks and appreciation for Britain's positive stand on the international conference and the popular uprising in the occupied Arab land.

The British minister, for his part, expressed appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts in the interest of a just, comprehensive, lasting settlement in the Mideast. He reiterated his country's stand on the need for the international conference. Mellor said Britain is concerned over Israel's continuing practices against Arabs in the occupied land. Present at the talks was the UK ambassador in Amman.

Mellor arrived in Amman earlier today for a 2-day visit to Jordan, during which he is to meet with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. The British minister is to talk with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri about regional developments and current Mideast peace efforts as well as other issues of mutual interest. On hand to welcome Mellor at Queen 'Alia' International Airport were Al-Masri, other Foreign Ministry officials and the UK ambassador.

Mellor on Mideast Peace Efforts

JN010844 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, received in his office this morning British Minister of State at the Foreign Office Mr David Mellor. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and Mr Mellor held talks in Amman this evening. Mr al-Masri explained to the British minister the suffering of the Palestinian Arab people in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. [passage omitted]

At a press conference following his talks with Mr Al-Rifa'i and Mr al-Masri the British minister said:

[Begin recording] I have had the opportunity today of meeting with the prime minister, Mr al-Rifa'i this morning. Then I have just come from a discussion with the foreign minister, Mr al-Masri. I have had the opportunity in my talks with both of these senior government officials to review the present stage in this new and renewed Middle East process. And I shall take the opportunity of reporting the outcome of these discussions to our prime minister who, as you know, is tomorrow having important meetings in London with His Majesty the king and also with Mr Shultz.

I would also say that we very much welcome American reengagement in the Middle East peace process. We wish Mr Shultz well in his endeavors. We are in the closest contacts with the Americans and with the government of Jordan at this time, and I very much hope that this detailed work and these intimate discussions with our friends will further the cause of peace.

What has the British government's view been for some time now? The British government's view for some time now has been that we believe that an international conference is the most likely mechanism to bring the parties together and to enable real progress to be made.

What is our view on progress? Our view is that the status quo is not any longer an option in the occupied territories, that a fundamental change has to come about. And it's always been our view that fundamental change has to be based on the exchange of territory for peace. [end recording]

Al-Rifa'i Leaves for UK to Join King Husayn

JN291727 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, left for London this afternoon to join his majesty the king on his current visit to Britain. The prime minister will participate in talks his majesty will hold with British Premier Mrs Margaret Thatcher and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is due to meet his majesty in the British capital.

USSR Religious Affairs Official Arrives 26 Feb

JN261718 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Amman — Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs in the USSR, arrived in Amman this afternoon. He is heading an official delegation on a 4-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Holy Places, and Religious Trusts. Kharchev will meet with a number of senior officials.

He will also hold talks with His Eminence Dr Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of Islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts; and senior officials at the ministry. He will also visit a number of scientific and cultural establishments as well as Jordan's cultural and historical sites. He was received at 'Alia' International Airport by His Eminence 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts, senior officials at the ministry, the Soviet ambassador in Amman; and the embassy staff.

Kharchev praised the close relations of friendship between Jordan and his country in various fields. In a statement upon arrival in Amman, he said that viewpoints between the two countries' leaderships are identical regarding many issues, particularly the issue of

world peace and need to find a just and durable solution to the Palestine question. He referred to the great success achieved by His Majesty King Husayn's recent historic visit to the Soviet Union and his talks with Soviet leader Gorbachev. He said that this visit has greatly contributed toward entrenching friendship, understanding, and bilateral relations.

Meets Prince Hasan

JN281800 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at the Royal Court today the chairman of the Soviet Religious Affairs Council, Konstantin Kharchev, and the delegation accompanying him.

Prince Hasan reiterated Jordan's belief in a centrist political position, affirming that the recent meeting between his majesty the king and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev took place within the framework of this position. His royal highness also said that pluralism can effectively contribute to cultural movement, pointing out that the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research invites Soviet scholars to participate in its conferences, and some of them are prominent members of the foundation.

Mr Kharchev paid tribute to his majesty the king's efforts in support of the causes of peace in the world as well as just Arab causes. He also paid tribute to Prince Hasan's role in strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

Departs for Damascus

JN291501 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Al-Ramtha, 29 Feb (PETRA)—Konstantin Kharchev, the chairman of the Soviet Religious Affairs Council, and the delegation accompanying him left Amman via Al-Ramtha this mroning at the end of a 4-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and a number of officials.

He also held talks with Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of Islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts, on ways of cooperation and coordination between the two countries in the fields of cultural and scientific exchange and religious affairs.

Amal Efforts at Higgins Dialogue Fail

TA011117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The Shi'ite Amal organization announced in southern Lebanon that it has failed in its attempt to hold a dialogue with the kidnappers of U.S. Colonel William Higgins. At the same time, an Amal spokesman noted that the effort to obtain Higgins' release will continue. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Amal organization repeated that they know precisely who kidnapped the U.S. UN observer. According to Amal, the kidnappers include several people who worked at the Amal command and later joined extreme organizations which are close to Hizballah.

The Voice of Lebanon radio station reported in the meantime that the U.S. colonel was transferred from southern Lebanon to the Beirut area over the weekend, hidden in a truck loaded with oranges.

Muslim Leader Denies Holding UNRWA Hostages

NC011310 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1240 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Shaykh Mahir Hammud, member of the Muslim ulema grouping, in reaction to the Phalangist radio report that the two UNRWA employees are being held by him, said today: This report was fabricated by the Israeli Phalangist radio, which aims at sowing sedition within our ranks.

At a news conference, he called on the kidnappers to release the two UNRWA employees immediately, adding: We regret that certain parties have thrown the ball in our court and accuse us of the kidnapping. There are important parties who know where the two kidnapped employees are being kept, and the issue does not need a theatrical production. Our information on this issue, he said, coincides with that of Eng Mustafa Sa'd.

Junblatt Receives Swedish Message on Hostages

NC291455 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has received a message from Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson that deals with the abduction of the two Scandinavians and thanks Junblatt for his stance on this issue.

The message was handed to Durayd Yaghi, head of the PSP Foreign Relations Office, during his meeting today with Ingemar Stjernberg, Swedish ambassador to Lebanon, and Tomas Gloss, first secretary at the Swedish Embassy in Damascus.

The conferees reviewed in detail the political situation in Lebanon and the region.

Amal's Beirut Branch Supports UN Bodies

NC292029 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The Amal Movement's Beirut branch has held an in-depth discussion about the attacks on UN bodies in the south. The branch reiterated its support for the UN bodies operating in southern Lebanon, which act as witnesses to the Israeli acts of aggression taking place there.

The Beirut branch affirmed the right of our kinfolk in the south to struggle for the sake of liberating the land and all men. It added that the security of the south should be the responsibility of the Amal Movement in the absence of the legitimate authorities.

Officials Get 'Urgent Invitation' to Syria

NC010829 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni headed for Damascus this morning. Minister Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt are to join them there later. The visit comes in response to an urgent invitation by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

It has been learned that talks will deal with the ideas on political reform in Lebanon presented by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his recent visit to Damascus. [passage omitted]

Friday Prayers View Shultz Tour, Higgins

LD270714 Tehran IRNA in English 0707 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 27, IRNA—Friday prayers leader of Imam Reza (AS) Mosque and the prominent Lebanese, Alim Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah described U.S. recent moves including the current visit of Secretary of State George Shultz to the region as an unsuccessful scheme for safeguarding the Zionist entity.

Speaking at Friday prayers sermons here Friday Allameh Fadlallah said that the U.S. aims at destroying Muslim ummah and has employed all its forces to contain the Islamic revolution because the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for the punishment of the aggressor Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Muslims, the prominent Lebanese alim said, will neither permit the U.S. to spread its expansionist policy in the region nor let the Zionist regime dominate the Middle East.

Allameh Fadlallah called on the U.N. to expell the U.S. from all its organisations because it exploits any international organisation for spying on the oppressed nations.

Pointing to the abduction of a U.S. colonel in southern Lebanon he invited Lebanese Muslims to avoid a war which would serve the objectives of those who hate to see Lebanese Shi'ites united.

Meanwhile, the Vice Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of Lebanese Shi'ite Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din in Friday prayers congregation termed George Shultz's visit to the region a new U.S. move to bring Syria to negotiating table on the Palestinian issue.

Shaykh Shams al-Din noted that the U.S.'s aim is to impel regional states to back compromisers and try to mobilize all regional countries against the Islamic Republic of Iran. But, he said, Syria would not accept any compromising plan.

On the critical situation created in Lebanon after the kidnapping of a U.S. spy Shaykh Shams al-Din made it clear that he would do whatever he can in order to prevent a clash between Lebanese Muslim forces and maintain the security in southern Lebanon where a possible internal war would not benefit anybody.

In Friday prayers congregation of Tyre Shaykh 'Ali Yassin led the sermon and warned the conspirators who endeavor to divide Muslims.

He said that reactions created since a U.S. colonel was kidnapped in southern Beirut indicate the enemy plots to involve Muslims in a clash at a time when international crisis makes it necessary for superpowers to divert the struggle of people from its main course.

Shaykh 'Ali Yassin emphasized that the abduction of the U.S. officer will not lead to the pull-out of international forces from southern Lebanon because they came to Lebanon according to international schemes.

PFLP Claims 27 Feb Sea Attack on Israel

NC291950 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The PFLP-GC has claimed responsibility for last Saturday's sea attack on an Israeli boat off the Sidon coast. The PFLP has issued a statement saying that the purpose of the attack was to support the [Palestinian] uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Birri 'To Assassinate Opposition' in Amal

NC261753 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] In tomorrow's edition, the magazine AL-MASIRAH quotes sources within the Amal Movement as saying they expect the Movement's internal situation to worsen in light of the increasing opposition to Nabih Birri. This opposition surfaced when he announced an end to the camps war at Syria's wishes. The Amal sources affirmed that Birri is seeking to form a secret apparatus to assassinate opposition figures within the Movement. He is also considering making organizational decisions to dispose of all those who oppose his leadership in Beirut and the South.

AL-MASIRAH also quoted a Syrian military official as saying at a private meeting that Beirut's southern suburb will be the scene of important events between Nabih Birri's followers and Hizballah members next month. The official noted that these events will be the prelude for a Syrian intervention in the area.

Interior Minister Leaves for Damascus 27 Feb

NC270726 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi left for Damascus this morning. He is leading a delegation of senior officers of the internal security forces that will hold discussions with high-ranking Syrian officials on conditions in Lebanon.

Al-Rasi Returns 28 Feb

NC281221 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi returned from Damascus at a late hour last night after concluding an official visit at the invitation of his Syrian counterpart Dr Muhammad Harbah. [passage omitted]

Warrant Issued for Attack on Ivorian Residence

NC292003 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Military investigating magistrate Justice Munir Hunayn has issued an arrest warrant against Private Dany Antonyus on charges of blowing up the Ivorian ambassador's residence.

Explosive Device Dismantled in West Beirut

NC271146 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] At 1130 today, a military expert dismantled an explosive device that was planted near the Islamic Cooperation Center in Bi'r al-'Abd in West Beirut. The explosive device was set to go off at 1145.

Hizballah sources did not rule out the possibility that the explosive device could have been targeted against Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. It is known that Fadlallah travels every day on the road on which the device was found, to perform midday prayers at the Al-Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd.

Commentary Terms Shultz Ideas 'Inaccurate'
JN291624 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz continues his Middle East tour, carrying the ideas he wants to market to the Middle East conflict partners. He does not withhold statements aimed at giving a good idea of the United States' intentions and at depicting the U.S. Administration as wholeheartedly seeking to reconcile the adversaries, iron out the existing differences, surmount the obstacles hampering the peace process, and reach a settlement that satisfies all and deals with the current situation in the occupied Arab territories and thus end a 40-year-old intricate international crisis.

Mr Shultz went so far as to express his readiness to meet with Palestinians anywhere. Before Shultz, President Reagan talked about the Middle East and Shultz' mission and referred to a comprehensive settlement and the need to abandon the old ideas. The question which poses itself is: Has the United States abandoned its old ideas, whose failure has been proved and whose lack of viability to deal positively with a complicated international issue like the Middle East question has been evidenced?

We are not the only ones who say that the well-known old U.S. ideas and stands are unfit to chart a peaceful future in the region. Allies close to the United States have this same conviction. Only a few days ago Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti said that the Camp David accords are not suitable to resolve the Middle East crisis.

Upon examining the ideas which Richard Murphy and then George Shultz brought to the region, one fails to find evidence that President Reagan's talk about relinquishing old ideas has been coupled with a practical stand confirming it. In addition to the fact that the ideas Shultz brought to the region were mostly unspecific and inaccurate, they were unfair and cannot lead to a comprehensive settlement that establishes a just peace. The party to the Middle East crisis that must change its old ideas and stands that helped complicate the situation is the United States, which is a basic party to the crisis by virtue of its relations with Israel.

World public opinion is today strongly demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories it is occupying and giving the Palestinian Arab people their national rights. The United Nations has through its various bodies drawn up the fundamental basis for the settlement of the Middle East crisis in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. This basis consists of two elements: the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, foremost being their right to self-determination and establishment of a national state, and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. However, the United States has not taken a clear and explicit stand toward them. On the contrary, it agrees to the Israeli preconditions, which call for the abandonment of this basis.

Although former U.S. President Jimmy Carter during his constitutional term talked about the Palestinian rights and about a homeland for the Palestinians, and although the current President Ronald Reagan also talked about the Palestinians' legitimate rights, the United States continues to avoid declaring a clear and explicit stand in support of the UN Charter and resolutions. Upon talking about the UN resolutions, the United States selects one or two resolutions and ignores the others.

The Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories have expressed their opinion and will through their uprising, which has entered its 3d month, and declared to the entire world that no solution is acceptable to them except the one that gives them freedom and self-determination and restores the land to its owners. Nevertheless, the United States continues to ignore this will, and Mr Shultz comes up to announce to the world that he is ready to listen to the Palestinians as if what the Palestinian Arab people want is not known to him and not inscribed in the UN Charter and the law on human rights.

The United States is invited to adopt a clear, positive stand. Such a stand will not be positive unless it eliminates the Israeli trusteeship over the U.S. policy in the Middle East. The United States is today talking about a comprehensive settlement and an international conference, but it must agree that such a conference should have the power to implement the UN resolutions and the UN Charter principles. It must also say what this international conference should accomplish.

People's Assembly Elects New Speaker 29 Feb
JN292021 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The People's Assembly has elected 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah its speaker, with a 169-vote majority. This evening the Assembly held a session chaired by Dr 'Ali Rida, deputy speaker, with Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs, as well as a number of Cabinet ministers in attendance.

At the outset of the session, the deputy speaker declared open the process of choosing the Assembly's officers, beginning with its speaker. The balloting was secret. When the ballots had been sorted, 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah won the speakership by polling 169 votes out of 179. After the deputy speaker had congratulated Qaddurah and wished him success, the latter took over the speakership. He then gave the following address:

Fellow deputies: To begin with, allow me to extend to you my heartfelt gratitude for your confidence, which I will spare no effort to live up to and cherish. I will exert myself to sustain democratic traditions and practices and fully respect the internal rules of the Assembly.

I will see to it that each deputy is afforded the chance to fulfill his role and responsibilities, discharge the missions entrusted to him by the people—the missions which have consistently been at the center of the interests and instructions of our leader, the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, head of the Progressive National Front's Central Command, and president of the Syrian Arab Republic. This should be an additional incentive for us to tackle our tasks and responsibilities to serve our people and execute the directives of their leader.

Fellow deputies, I am confident you share my opinion that we have ahead of us great duties, a momentous mission, and onerous responsibilities if we are to keep up developing the Assembly's vigor and its legislative and oversight roles to carry out the tasks required of the representatives of the people, especially since this was the primary reason for creating it after the glorious rectification movement, and these are the constant instructions of the leader of the march of our people and nation, the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Having mentioned the legislative and oversight roles of this Assembly, I would like to point out that it will support the government in its pursuit of the goals of the party and state. After all, all of us have one common responsibility, namely, the advancement of our nation and people, the realization of our pan-Arab aims of liberating the occupied Arab land, facing up to imperialist pressures and Zionist aggression, and helping the Palestinian Arab people in their glorious strife to determine their future and attain their full, legitimate rights. At the same time, we will work hand in hand to make a success of the economic and social development programs and solve the daily problems of our masses.

Fellow deputies, it is worthwhile to remind ourselves of the importance of the alliance grouping our country's pan-Arab, progressive forces led by our struggler president, the historic leader of our nation, party, and our revolution—an alliance that marks a popular, democratic formula sought by our party and glorious revolution, whose silver jubilee we are now observing. Your esteemed Assembly is an expression of this democratic formula, which calls for sustained, responsible action so the alliance remains a living symbol of national cohesion on the road to delivering the major tasks awaiting us.

In conclusion, allow me to refer to the efforts of my predecessor. I pray that Almighty God will grant us success and help in our ceaseless struggle down the road to our nation's goals of unity, liberty, and socialism.

Al-Ahmar Receives USSR Delegation 28 Feb

JN281547 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] This morning Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received a CPSU delegation headed by Comrade (Khan Makhammadov), Communist Party of Uzbekistan Central Committee secretary [name and title as heard]. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the developed relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPSU and aspects of cooperation in all fields including science and culture.

During the meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar referred to the scientific progress achieved in Syria under the 8 March Revolution and with the care of the party and its secretary general, struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad. He discussed developments in the Arab region and Syria's firm and principled stand in confronting imperialist and Zionist schemes aimed at Arab struggle issues, especially the central Palestinian issue.

The talks also dealt with the Arab people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories of the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan, and the brutal and oppressive practices against the people in the occupied homeland carried out by the Zionist occupation authorities.

Comrade (Makhammadov) praised Syria's anti-imperialist and Zionist policy and reaffirmed the USSR's stand which supports Syria and the Arab nation in their struggle for a just and comprehensive settlement in the region that guarantees the return of the occupied Arab territories and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Address to Ulema, Theologians

LD292231 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Speech by President Najibullah to session of ulema and theologians on 28 February; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Ulema, great shaykhs, theologians, prayer leaders, and esteemed preachers: May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

In expressing my appreciation to you on the occasion of the 40th day since the death of Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, the great freedom struggler of this region, which caused the holding of a holy Koran recitation ceremony in Delkosha Palace, allow me to request from great God, blessings and prosperity for you. [passage omitted]

We have declared that the national reconciliation policy relies on the will of God, may he be glorified, and on a good proposal by you, esteemed theologians. We are implementing it with Islamic honesty. For the first time during the years of undeclared war imposed by international imperialism and its regional servants, real conditions now exist to end the bloodshed and fratricide on our territory.

As you know, on 8 February statements made by the president of Afghanistan and the leadership of the Soviet Union were issued. In these statements, the internal and external aspects of the Afghan settlement issue were fully specified.

In connection with resolving the external part, it should be stated that in the Geneva talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan, three documents have previously been agreed upon and almost completed and finalized. The only unsolved issue in the Geneva talks until now has been agreement on a timetable for the return of the Soviet forces. The statements made by the leaders of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have also resolved this issue, specifying a logical and acceptable time frame for the return of the Soviet forces.

As a result of this constructive stance by the Afghan and Soviet sides, all the real conditions and possibilities have now been created to successfully conclude the Geneva talks and the signing of its four documents. We very much hope that this matter will be implemented in the next round of Geneva talks which will begin on 3 March. These statements have specified all the solutions in a just and responsible manner and leave no one indifferent [as heard].

In this connection, contradictory and surprising voices are reaching us from Pakistan. Until very recently the central point in the demands of the opposition was the withdrawal of the Soviet forces without any preconditions from Afghanistan. I repeat, the withdrawal without any preconditions of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Now, after the statements made by the leadership of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, and with the issue of the return of the Soviet forces to their country decisively resolved, they have brought up conditions and want their so-called transitional government to be formed before the withdrawal of these forces.

It is very interesting that they, who until yesterday were not accepting any conditions for the return of the Soviet forces, now themselves are setting conditions, saying that the withdrawal of the Soviet forces should be implemented after the formation of a so-called interim government which has been discussed by the extremists groups. The meaning of this plan is that the limited Soviet contingents should bring these groups to power in Afghanistan, and then leave.

Until recently the extremists were claiming that 80-90 percent of Afghan territory is under their control. So what makes them worry? Why do they link the return of the Soviet forces with the formation of their transitional government? Both in my statement and in the one by M.S. Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union, it has been clearly expressed that the return of the limited Soviet contingents has no link to the formation of a coalition government in Afghanistan.

I want to stress once again that the matter of forming a government emanates from the people's right to power over the country and belongs to the people of Afghanistan alone. The people and the state authorities in the Republic of Afghanistan will never agree to a government being constructed for Afghans in Islamabad or in London, and then exported to Afghanistan. This is an illogical and unnatural approach. Do we allow ourselves to set up a government for Islamabad and then export the prepared (?prescription)?

Since the beginning, one of the main goals has been to allow Afghan emigrants to return to Afghanistan peacefully and honorably, and to take part in resolving their problems. Based on this fact, one point of the agreements in Geneva is the voluntary and peaceful return of refugees to their country. In this agreement all the conditions and facilities for the return of refugees have been explained. Currently, when all the conditions and possibilities for an honorable return of the emigrants to their homeland have been prepared, the leaders of the extremists groups stationed in Pakistan are preventing the return of these emigrants by using various pretexts, including conditions that oppose the Geneva agreements.

The leaders of these groups, who ostensibly have done their trade in the name of the emigrants over the last 9 to 10 years, have plundered them and filled their bank accounts at the expense of the emigrants' poor lives and built a fantasy lifestyle for themselves. Now they want to again make a political trade in their names and prevent them from returning through selfish plans. Are the

hundreds of thousands of emigrants who suffer from hunger in camps and tents there just to put a few hats of power on the heads of the leaders of several extremist groups? The time has past when these alliances can deprive the emigrants of their rights.

Their abject life in the Iranian and Pakistani camps has become unbearable for our Muslim emigrants. According to reliable information, more than 90 percent of Afghan emigrants are ready to return to their fatherland. The demonstrations by a large number of Afghan emigrants in Islamabad, Quetta, Kurram Agency, and Bajaur supporting the Geneva talks, a rapid solution to the Afghan situation, and the immediate return of emigrants is a bright manifestation of this fact. That is why they have sold their stationary property and foreign currencies; and afghanis have even become unobtainable in Pakistan.

We have presented a solution for setting a time frame for the return of the limited Soviet contingents—a solution to the only point that the extremists were always using as a pretext. However, voices now arise from Pakistan saying that if a positive response is not given to the selfish claims by the extremists concerning the formation of a interim government before the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, a bloodbath will occur in Afghanistan. Through their claim, they want on the one hand to play the role of a nurse that is kinder than the mother, and on the other hand to sow the seeds of discord. And they pretend they have not soiled their hands with the blood of Afghanistan's people.

It is as if they have not killed the best patriots and noble theologians; as if they have not set public establishments on fire; as if they have not blown up bridges, hospitals, factories, mosques, and vehicles. Also, by claiming this they in fact encourage the extremist groups to continue the bloodbath in our country. The interesting thing is that they portray these forbidden deeds as if they help the Afghan emigrants, based on Islamic brotherhood principles. Do the principles of Islamic brotherhood allow that when a Muslim has offended his brother, a weapon should be given to him to kill his father, brother, or sister? Islam opposes such savageness and supports the right to life for each peace-seeking human being.

The meaning of bloodbath completely contradicts the peace-seeking spirit of the people of Afghanistan. Our people and state will not give this opportunity to the would-be bloodbath perpetrators.

In Pakistan they also talk about a comprehensive solution, and say that a government should be formed in Afghanistan to include all concerned sides. A few days ago the news of the formation of a puppet, artificial, one-sided, and foreign-made government for Afghanistan was published. What kind of comprehensive solution is this, which not only ignores the approved Constitution in Afghanistan's Grand Assembly and the legitimate state existing in Afghanistan, but also tramples on the rights of the refugees, groups, and organizations in Iran, Western Europe, the United States, India, Arab countries, and even inside Pakistan?

The national reconciliation plan announced by the Republic of Afghanistan, including the formation of a coalition government, has a general and comprehensive character and includes various persons and forces, first of all the armed opposition groups inside the country. This plan also includes groups living in Pakistan and Iran, supporters of the ex-king, and individuals and groups residing in Western Europe, the United States, and Arab countries.

As for the armed groups opposing us inside the country, despite the fact that they have resorted to armed resistance against popular rule, since they have not left their country, we respect them. Therefore, groups inside the country naturally enjoy a priority right in the future broad-based coalition government in Afghanistan.

We announced this at the very earliest declaration of the policy of national reconciliation. In particular, when the president elected by the historic Grand Assembly announced that the sate was ready to begin negotiations with the commanders of the armed opposition groups inside the country in order to form a coalition government, this was legally sanctioned.

The extremist groups living in Pakistan, however, have not in the least allowed the armed groups inside the country into the formation of their so-called artificial transitional government. The fact is that the internal resistance constitutes the main force among the opposition groups.

The realistic and comprehensive plan for the formation of a coalition government was submitted a year ago by the Afghan state, a state that is in control of our fatherland, Afghanistan. It has a regular state structure and half a million troops at its disposal. It has a monetary and economic system and is capable of defending the freedom, independence, and territorial integirty of the country. It is a state which, in the body of a historic grand assembly in the month of December, promulgated the country's Constitution and elected the president, thus once again proving its legality.

Afghanistan, under the reign of this state, has diplomatic relations with more than 80 countries around the world, including Islamic countries. It is a state that is officially a member of the UN, the Nonaligned Movement, and (?30) international organizations, and is pragmatically participating in their work.

How, then, do some give themselves the right to toss aside this state which, with the will of the peace-seeking people of Afghanistan, is pursuing a policy of reconciliation and coalition through every decision concerning the maintenance of peace and stability in the country

and the Afghan people's right to self-determination. Such a subjective attitude, far from the objective reality of our society, is doomed to defeat.

In view of these facts, how can we explain Pakistan's latest stand at the Geneva talks? The fact that Pakistan proposed the creation of a so-called interim government as a precondition for the signing of the Geneva accords, is in fact indicative of their distortions and open destructiveness toward the Geneva process. This has not been considered during the 5 and 1/2 years of the Geneva talks and, in principle, cannot be considered. From the very beginning the principle that was agreed upon was that the Geneva process aims at solving the external aspect of the Afghan question. With the elimination of external factors in the Afghanistan problem, solving the internal question will become considerably easier.

Based on this principle, the Pakistani Government, during 5 and 1/2 years, has conducted the Geneva talks only through the UN special envoy and only with the foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, not with the delegates of another state or other forces. It is indeed ludicrous that throughout this time the government of Pakistan has sent its foreign minister more than 10 times to Geneva to discuss the draft agreement with the foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan. And now, when nearly all the real conditions and opportunities exist for the Geneva accords to be signed, Pakistan, by putting forward unjustifiable pretexts, intends to create obstacles, demanding that the Geneva agreements be signed not with the legal government of Afghanistan, but with some third government or the so-called transitional government.

Here, in the Republic of Afghanistan, in order to maintain national reconciliation and end the sedition of the fratricidal war, patriotic and modest servants have sincerely pledged before God and his people to do everything to maintain peace and provide conditions for progress in Afghan justice and brotherhood. All Afghans have the right to participate in the political, economic, and cultural life of the country.

This Constitution has established a multiparty democracy. It has thrown out foreign issues. It has embraced the plans and opinions of our people in the form of national traditions and is reviving the credibility of the sacred religion of Islam. Representatives of the religious leaders and ulemas will occupy a suitable position in our national parliament.

The multiparty system and the coalition of various internal forces is the correct path toward the cessation of the fratricidal war, the establishment of national accord, and peace in the ancient land of Afghanistan. Despite all the contradictions and artificial and unrealistic plans by the opposition, we hope that the sound mind will finally win. Your president and government are working to establish peace in Afghanistan. Let Almighty God help us in this cause.

We will soon be seeing off the units and companies of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union returning to their homeland. The Soviet troops came to our country at the request of the government of Afghanistan. They helped us defend the freedom and independence of our people. They saved the lives of thousands of children, women, and elderly. They saved our cities and villages from destruction. It is our duty and responsibility not just to express gratitude to them and remember their heroism, but to make every effort so that the memory of the proud sons of the Soviet Union is handed down from one generation to another.

My message to all patriotic Afghans, who should express fraternal thanks to and respect these ambassadors of peace, was warmly welcomed throughout the country. The Soviet troops did not come for war, but by sincerely doing their duty they are returning home with respect, with heads held high as the very worthy representatives of the fraternal people who have carried out, and will continue to give assistance and all-round help to Afghanistan. However, in turn we as Afghans will always mourn for those mothers, sisters, and spouses whose dear ones are not returning and who have sacrificed their young lives for the peace and prosperity of our people. The memory of these heroes is eternal.

The leader of the Soviet Union, M.S. Gorbachev, spoke sincerely about the friendship of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and about loyalty to the traditions of good-neighborliness and mutual respect, the origin of which begins from the time of V.I. Lenin and the first Afghan-Soviet treaty. The people of Afghanistan are proud of their friendship with the Soviet Union. This friendship is among our historical traditions, and we will make every effort to ensure that Afghan-Soviet friendship will never in any way become stained. Soviet troops are leaving our country, but the friendship remains and the economic and social assistance and political support will expand and deepen.

This friendship with our northern neighbor has helped us protect our freedom, independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty in the past, in the present, and in the future. M.S. Gorbachev's words to our people—that the courageous, freedom-loving, and brave people of Afghanistan, with their long history and struggle for freedom and independence, are the masters of their country, which has been created on the basis of a multiparty system, politically, and a multifaceted system, economically—were heard in Afghanistan with great thanks. Peace will come to Afghanistan in a way the people desire. Afghans will define their country's place among other states. These are golden words. Afghans will never forget these words. Take these words to the ears of the people.

The return of the Soviet forces is not linked to our efforts to create a new coalition government in Afghanistan. The return of the Soviet forces, in accordance with all the

aspects of the solution, including the guarantee of noninterference, is one matter, and the complete realization of the policy of national reconciliation in the country is another matter. This matter is completely domestic and can only be solved by Afghans, even if they belong to various forces. In this way our announcement convincingly and reasonably negates all the hostile propaganda about the intervention of the Soviet Union in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Some, inside and outside the country, are worried about what will happen in Afghanistan after the Soviet forces leave. Will military clashes intensify? The development of such a situation could be avoided, provided those who are now fighting against their brothers, in a practical way, join in the peaceful construction of Afghanistan. However, the fundamentalists who want force will have to face the growing will of the majority in Afghanistan who are striving for peace and the pledge of states concerning noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The Geneva agreements close the door in the face of those who want to forcefully impose their will on all the people.

Esteemed ulema and spiritual leaders should warn those who so far have placed their personal interests over social interests and intend to continue the fratricidal war that their actions are contrary to Islam, and should make them aware of the consequences of these actions for them on the judgment day. The ulema and respected religious leaders should invite them for peace and reconciliation.

It must be stated that the recent declaration has left no one in confusion or doubt. Once again the goodwill, loyalty, and consistency of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union toward solving the problems in Afghanistan have been reflected in this declaration. When the knot in the problem of Afghanistan is untied, it will have considerable influence on other regional problems in the world. We feel our internationalist role in that Afghanistan will become the first country in this responsible moment to play its historical role in settling regional disputes and showing profound responsibility for the destiny of international peace. For this noble cause we will not spare any energy.

The principled and open stand of the Soviet Union is faced with the profound respect and complete support of all patriotic Afghans and progressive people of the world. After the announcement by M.S. Gorbachev and the Afghan leadership, we now particularly feel our responsibility to history. The important thing is that the opposition, too, should act similarly.

Undoubtedly, after the agreements on Afghanistan are enforced, the realization of the treaties on medium- and short-range missiles will be facilitated, and the signing of these agreements will provide good conditions for the fruitful advancement of the routine round of talks in the USSR-U.S. summit meeting in Moscow. In our statement, without considering their connection to a certain social class, tribe, or ethnic group, we invited all Afghan patriots to become active participants in the fight to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan. In this way, the Afghan people will be saved from war and succeed in achieving peace.

Recently the religious figures in our country issued a resolution to all Muslims in Afghanistan on the statements by the leaders of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. They comprehensively and completely supported the efforts to reach a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan and the cessation of bloodshed. I would like to thank Mawlawi 'Abdul Jamil Zarifi and Esteemed Mawlawi Ghulam Sarwar Manzur for this initiative.

I believe our Islamic ulema and religious leaders, mullahs, preachers, and spiritualists will not stop at this, but will take new steps toward this end. Let ever-faithful Muslims in the mosques and other places of worship hear the words of truth and peace from your tongues. All your efforts to stop the fratricidal war and achieve national peace are in complete accord with the fundamentals of the sacred religion of Islam and the ancient traditions of the people of Afghanistan. We have laid the foundation stone of the house of peace. The people want to change Afghanistan into a peaceful country. Those who act against the will of the people are their sworn enemies.

In the statements of the leaders of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the successes of the policy of national reconciliation, which has made it possible for some Soviet troop units to begin withdrawing from some points in Afghan territory and for there to currently be no Soviet forces in 13 Afghan provinces, have been stated. The fact is that the present times have often enhanced the stand and responsibility of each of us before almighty God and his creatures.

A little more than a year ago we—with the will of God and based on the proposals by you, respected religious leaders—announced the policy of national reconciliation for the cessation of bloodshed, for the cessation of the killing of Muslim by Muslim, and for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the country. The origin of this policy is the order of almighty God and the holy Koran, which is the guide in this world and the next for us Muslims and which has declared peace to be good. Hazrat-e Muhammad, peace be upon him and his family, says: Humanity is the family of God, the most chosen person is the one who benefits from this family. Our Muslim people, fortunately, have succeeded in applying this policy and have put limits on the rebellion and sedition. With the blessings and goodness of almighty God, it will not be long until the sun of peace will rise over our entire homeland.

We now stress the complicated situation in our country concerning peace. Without a doubt, we are sure of our good character and of our being Muslim. We have confidence that God, may he be glorified, and his messenger, Muhammad, peace and progress be upon him and his family, will help us in this direction. For we are the competent servants of God and have acted on his instructions and orders.

Without a doubt, there are forces who are for or against this policy or, to put it this way, for or against the meaning and nature of this policy either inside our country or on the international level. Despite our people's urgent need and thirst for peace, we face strong opposition, both from the enemies of tranquility in the country and those who want to continue trading in the blood of our Muslim people. However, with the help of God and support of our people, we go forward successfully on this difficult path. [sentence indistinct]

Naturally the enemies of Afghanistan have always tried to discredit the national reconciliation policy. They have acted and are acting strongly against this policy. The enemies of reconciliation rely on the destructive war and its continuation and benefit from it as one benefits from a milk cow. They act against the assertions of Muhammad, peace and progress be upon him and his family, who said that the true Muslim is the one who does not harm other Muslims by his deeds or words.

We act in accordance with that instruction. Muslims and people who seek peace in our country understand very well that the stronger and higher the invitation to kill and slaughter the more it will defame the killers and those who cause the bloodshed of innocent people.

Our state's measures in serving the sacred religion of Islam have meant that the enemies of Afghanistan have not resorted to a hue and cry of jihad for the sake of Islam behing a so-called Islamic mask. The sun can not be covered with two fingers. All our measures shine as the sun. We are Muslim, sons of Muslims, and we are the fruit of our Islamic society's training. We leave the judgement to you, the wise worshippers of God, so you can compare our deeds and those of our irreconcilable enemy, and say whatever your conscience says.

During the past year much work was carried out in all directions. With every passing day a large number of our compatriots returned to their beloved country. Many more armed opposition groups ended the war against the state power, and a large number of villages were declared peace zones. These figures are better proof than any words.

Great transformations have taken place in the political sphere. The multiparty system and a coalition form of administration are improving. Economic life is brighter. Despite the difficult conditions we found the opportunity to increase the salaries of workers and employees, and render assistance to the peasants, intellectuals, theologians, and servicemen. We try to pay special attantion to the emigrants and those families who have suffered as a result of war. The state will pave the ground for the next generation.

I want to give you some information on a decision made by the state some time ago. An allocation of approximately 3 billion afghanis has been considred for free breakfasts, uniforms, and footwear for school children. This matter is further proof of our attention to the school children of this country. There are gains in the sphere of strenghtening the Armed Forces, who are a shield and bastion of national reconciliation. The prestige of our country has been enhanced at the international level.

Esteemed ulema, despite the difficult conditions emanating from the continuation of the imposed war, the state approved an allocation of 550 million aghanis during the current year to serve the sacred religion of Islam and its practice. Twenty mosques have recently been built and 394 mosques were placed under repair. In addition, the presidency has dedicated 14 million afghanis for the floor of the mosque and shrine of Caliph 'Ali—may God honor him—in Balkh, and a sum of 2 million afghanis for the repair of the mosque of the Kherqa-e Mubarak mosque in Qandahar. Also an instruction has been given to the state bodies to begin repair work on the building of the shrine and the mosque of Jenab-e Najmuddin Akhundzada Saheb in Hadah, and also on the Najmul Madrasa [religious school], at an approximate cost of 62 million afghanis.

During the current year the state paved the ground for 4,200 Afghan pilgrims to go to haj, with many facilities, at a subsidy of 120,960,000 afghanis, while 102 pilgrims went to Karbala' at a subsidy of 4.7 million afghanis. One of two [type indistinct] aircraft bought recently were engaged in special flights for the haj pilgrims. During this year the number of mosques under state (?protection) has increased to 634. At the moment 20,000 prayer leaders, preachers, and Koran readers are being provided with salaries and coupons by the state. Still our measures to serve the prayer leaders and preachers in the mosques and takeyeh khaneh [place where passion plays are staged] are below our desired level.

We instruct the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment to promote all ungraded mosques to mosques with grades. Naturally, in such a case the salary of a large number of prayer leaders will increase 2 and 1/2 fold. The state not only considers its duty to render financial assistance to the religious affairs of the Muslim people, but has also paid attention to prepare possiblities for moral education in Islamic beliefs, thoughts, and culture.

During the current year, for the first time, a center for Islamic science research was established. At present, Islamic researchers are busy researching the history, culture and principles of the jurisprudence of the Islamic religion. We are sure that the scholars and researchers in

this center will further enrich the Islamic culture of our country, and will play a valuable role in expanding the culture and training of our youth and future generation.

During this year the ERSHAD-E ESLAM journal, the publication of the high council of ulema and religious leaders of Afghanistan, was published. This journal had a great role in disseminating and interpreting the Islamic principles based on social justice, equality, Islamic brotherhood, and peace, and in exposing and condemning social evils. The aim of these measures is to provide Islamic science and knowledge to our Muslim people.

The presidency is determined to constantly consolidate and expand the measures concerning Islamic education. In the near future a big Islamic scientific center called society [Jam-e a], or a university for Islamic science research will be established in Kabul city.

In addition to daytime colleges for teachers of religious studies of all schools to complete their education, religious evening schools will also be included in this university. Short courses and evening courses will be offered at this university for prayers leaders of mosques to complete their religious awareness.

It is our desire that our beloved country be once again transformed into a large center of Islamic science from which all Muslims of the region and world benefit. On this basis we have allowed our teachers of Islamic science the extraordinary privilege of exemption from military service on condition of passing the teaching exam so that they have all the possibilities at their disposal for teaching.

It is a cause of concern for us that the level of teaching is low in the religious schools, and that the classrooms and dormitories of these schools do not meet present needs. Moreover, the teaching hours for religious subjects in the general schools do not meet our demands. I commission the Ministry of Education and Training to take measures to remove these shortcomings in cooperation with the country's Islamic scholars, and to implement them in the current academic year.

We have increased time and space for religious affairs coverage on radio and television and in newspapers and weeklies in the capital and provinces. Nevertheless, they do not meet our present requirements. We intend to devote more of our mass media resources to the propaganda and popularization of Islamic ideas. We invite you, scholars and ulema of Islamic science, to discharge your religious duties to enrich the media.

In the current year the political rights of ulema and clergy have been extended. At this very moment 11 of the country's clergymen are members of the Revolutionary Council, which will perform its duties until the election of the delegates to the national assembly. One of the country's well-known clergymen, Meya Faqirullah Sahebulhaq, discharges his duty as vice president of the Revolutionary Council. Some 1,092 religious ulemas are members of local government councils. Several religious ulema have been elected as governors or chairmen of the executive committees of the people's delegates' councils in provinces, districts, and subdistricts. They have displayed their worthiness in government administration, and they have proved that mullas and our Islamic preachers are not only good peachers of truth of the Islamic religion but are also good administrators of government organs.

I draw your attention to the productive work of Mawlawi Mustafa Farahi, governor of Farah Province. As a result of his wise and productive work Farah Province became the first province to be declared a province of peace. We invite esteemed ulema, preachers, clergymen, and scholars of Islamic science to play an active part in the work of local government. The government provides every opportunity for them through government organs to enable them to serve the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

A number of esteemed Afghan ulema and clergymen, perceiving their mission to restore peace and put an end to bloodshed, have accomplished appreciable duties during the year following the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy. At this moment, 1,400 clergymen and scholars of Islamic science are being organized in the national front councils. Moreover, the religious ulema comprise 12 percent of the members of the national reconciliation commissions.

They, through their credible words, invite people to peace, reconciliation fraternity, and the cessation of war and fratricide. Among these ulema and clergymen, Mawlawi 'Abdul Wajid, head pracher of the army; Mawlawi Taj Muhammad; Shaykh Muhammad Awaz Sadeqi; and Shaykh Muhammad Hasan from Faryab Province have been endeavoring more than others for the popularization of rights and righteousness and the nature of national reconciliation.

It is also worth recalling the formidable influence of Esteemed Mawlawi Muhammad Salem Almi and Mawlawi 'Abdul Salam Khadem's preachings on the opening of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway and the removing of the economic blockade of Khowst major district. The brave and religious people of the Zadran tribe, whose credible circles have perceived the goodness of Islamic truth, the advantages of peace and the disadvantages of war, did not provide the enemies with an opportunity for bloodshed.

Esteemed religious ulema and clergymen,

The historic Grand Assembly of the people of Afghanistan was convened during this year. At this Grand Assembly, the new Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan was endorsed, and the president was elected. The Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan states that the religion of Afghanistan is the sacred religion of Islam. In the Republic of Afghanistan, no laws can be repugnant to the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and other values of this Constitution. Moreover,

this Constitution guarantees the freedom of the performance of religious and worship rituals for Muslims. According to this Constitution, only a Muslim subject of Afghanistan can be elected president of the country who takes an oath in the name of God before the grand assembly to safeguard the principles of the sacred religion of Islam.

According to the Constitution, the right of inheritance to property in accordance with Islamic Law has been guaranteed. The arch and pulpit, as a place of preaching and prosperity of the country's Muslims, have been embodied in the government symbol of the Republic of Afghanistan.

We convened the nationwide PDPA conference on national reconciliation this year. The documents on the PDPA's program and charter were endorsed at this conference. The PDPA's program of action emphasizes that the PDPA will pay serious attention to enforcing and securing the rights and freedom of the Muslims and noble ulema. The PDPA will also endeavor to secure the freedom of religious activities in all religious institutions and for all of the faithful they must be supported in their striving for peace and national accord.

The PDPA charter, the implementation of which is binding upon every party member, makes the party members duty bound to safeguard and enrich the traditions and worthy customs of the people, respect their religious beliefs, and assist them in the performance of religious rituals.

The Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, in accordance with the principles of the national reconciliation policy, prepared the ground for solid legal bases regarding the the freedom of activities of political parties and the creation of a multiparty system and coalition organs irrespective of our compatriots' beliefs and political views, and provided equal possibilities for their active participation in the restoration of national peace and social life. In light of the Constitution, the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan has been provided the opportunity to function. This in itself can be regarded as another nucleus for the expansion of political rights of the country's ulema, clergymen, and other religious people.

The Islamic party is at the begining of its formation. This party will be a credible force, influential, and a champion for the cause of peace in our country. We wish victories for the members of this party and its leadership.

As announced in the policy speech of the president delivered at the Grand Assembly, the Islamic consultative council, in the framework of the presidential office and consisting of the outstanding ulema of the country, will be created. This council will advise the president on all affairs based on the principles and Shari'a of the sacred religion of Islam. Thus we will organize our actions and measures in accordance with the sacred religion of Islam starting from the highest position of the state authority, namely, the presidential office. Such a thing has not existed in our country in the past.

Who will the members of this council be? Proposals have reached us suggesting the following persons be included in its composition:

1. Mawlawi Faqirullah Sahebulhaq

2. 'Abduljamil Zarifi, minister of Islamic affairs

3. Muhammad Sediq Saylani, head of the Islamic Science Studies Center

4. 'Abdul Ghafur Baher, minister without portfolio

5. Sayyed Mansur Naderi, leader of the Esmaelia sect

6. Mir Huseyn Aqa, son of Sayyed 'Ali Ahmad Hojat, a preacher in Chindawal

7. Mawali Sayyed 'Abdul Manan, preacher at the polytechnic mosque

8. Jora Qol, prayer leader in the Turkemen mosque

9. 'Abdul Rauf, son of 'Abdul Khaleq, prayer leader in the mosque at the end of Jada-e Miwand [main street in Kabul]

10. 'Abdul Salam Khadam, chairman of the city council

11. Qari 'Abdul Satar Serat, chairman of the Islamic Party of the Afghan People.

It should be mentioned that seats are reserved on this council for those ulema and religious leaders who are still in the ranks of the opposition. We expect these ulema as soon as possible to perform their role and mission to ensure a nationwide peace in the country as the heirs to the messenger of Islam and as responsible human beings.

You might have some views on the structure of the council, or you might want to introduce other candidates. If there is any proposal I want to hear it.

Your silence seems to mean that you all agree. Therefore I take it that you agree with this structure.

We also want to promote the role of the high council of ulema and religious leaders of Afghanistan to a religious-social organization. This council should be turned into a center for involving the country's best ulema and Islamic scholars. Mobilizing and uniting the religious ulema and theologians and other patriotic religous leaders in this council will provide a real foundation for implementing the correct principles of the sacred religion of Islam. We expect the religious leaders, as bearers of righteousness and glory, to play an active part in all issues connected with social, economic and political life.

Religious ulema must organize meetings, ceremonies, assemblies, and explanatory conferences in the subdistricts, districts, major districts, provinces, cities, and regions, and from the viewpoint of the sacred religion of Islam, to assess and analyze the issues of life today such as aspects of the national reconciliation policy, land and water reform, tax collection, campaigns against hoarding, bribery, embezzlement, usury, highway robbery, and stealing, the protection of the treasury, and other issues. They should express their useful views, encourage goodness, and forbid evil.

Such an initiative must be undertaken by the council of ulema and religious leaders of Afghanistan as the main center for the country's religious leaders. In that case the country's ulema and religious leaders will perform their duties as heirs of the prophet—may peace and progress be upon him and his family—and they will fulfill their earthly and eternal responsibility. God—may he be glorified—addressed the believers of Muhammad—peace and progress be upon him and his family—saying: You are the best believers who have appeared on earth hitherto, because you exhort each other to do proper work. You refrain from doing the work of evil and believe in God.

Sitting around, not working, and being indifferent to the interests of society are considered bad work and even a sin, to which one should not submit oneself. Without doubt the fulfillment of the mission of ulema and religious leaders of Islam, based on enjoying goodness and forbidding evil, is not without difficulties. However, the ulema's position and situation is not the same as that of other members of society.

As has been said by God: Tell me my messenger, are those who understand and those who do not understand and lack knowledge equal? Never. No. The ulema and religious leaders and the prophet's heirs can only be those who are the frontliners in disseminating the word of God, expressing truth and reality, and fulfilling duties of religious, homeland, and conscience, and who take bold steps.

All Muslims of the world know that the people of Afghanistan have their own history, traditions, and customs that are different from other country's. We have inherited our tradition and customs from our forefathers. The source and seed of the pride of Afghanistan is embodied in this (?nature). Our Islamic country, thanks to God, has fostered a large number of patriotic, freedom-loving, and people-serving ulema. Sayyed Jamaluddin Afghani, Per-e Roshan, Mullah Mushk Alam, Mullah Najmuddin Akhundzada Saheb, Mullah Fiaz Muhammad Kateb, Mawlawi Ghulam Sarwar Andarabi, and others are bright and outstanding examples of freedom-loving patriots from this worthy strata of our society.

Now, when time has once again tested the Afghans regarding the safeguarding of their territorial independence and the defense of the country's forefathers, they defend their homeland with self-sacrifice. Certainly the role of the religious leaders and theologians becomes increasingly more prominent. The source of the national reconciliation policy is the sacred religion of Islam. This policy was declared on the basis of a proposal by you, God believer and patriotic ulema. In fact, you should stand at the front line of its defense. Deliver the truth to the people. Encourage them to actively defend peace and national reconciliation.

Dear ulema, our heroic Armed Forces, as the safety shield for the defense of the revolution, homeland, and people, and for the national reconciliation policy are carring out their brave role against the aggressors and war-mongerers. They carry the burden of struggle against the extremists. Under present conditions, the establishment of peace in our territory will face problems without a powerful armed force. Therefore, concessions to the armed forces and steps aimed at improving the living conditions of the soldiers and officers have a special place in the series of measures we are taking.

In order for the soldiers and officers of our proud Armed Forces to be able to carry out their prayers in the best manner, the people's authority has approved a large organization for ulema and prayer leaders and provided facilities for constructing and repairing mosques and the carpets in them. In addition to coupons, clothes, homes, and other concessions, prayer leaders in the armed forces have also been given military rank, and the head of the prayer leaders receives the privileges of a general. The urgency and importance of strengthening the armed forces' ranks and the serious and constant observation of religious rites in the Armed Forces requires that the prayer leaders for the armed forces be fully manned. Until now, there has been a 33 percent shortage in prayer leaders.

Also, more attention such be paid to the repair and construction of mosques in the units and companies. We commision all the concerned authorities to assist the armed forces in this noble cause. We invite the reiigious leaders and prayer leaders to encourage—based on the instruction of the sacred religion of Islam and the fulfillment of their homeland duty—all the brave sons of the homeland serving under the flag of the Republic of Afghanistan and joining the proud ranks of the Armed Forces.

I can say proudly that the Republic of Afghanistan, as a free, independent, indivisible, and Islamic country, has had successes in the international arena, since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, toward establishing and expanding ties on an international scale, especially among Islamic countries.

Our clergymen's international activities since the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation, have improved relatively. During this period, 10 delegations of our clergymen went abroad and 16 foreign delegations came to Kabul. This year the clergymen hosted the

international contest of holy Koran recitations. I deem it necessary to support the decision of Esteemed Qari Muhammad Aman Nawa'i in preparing for the convocation of domestic and international contests of the holy Koran recitation in the country, and I wish him success in this worthy cause.

It gives us and them pride that in two international contests convened in the world in the current year the Afghan contestants, Qari Muhammad Nabi Muqbel and Qari 'Abdul Mubin, took first in these contests. We must introduce our contestants, who are the pride of our Muslim people, to the world public. We express support for the decision by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to begin fully recording the holy Koran as recited by Ostad Barakatullah Salim. Still we do not view this as enough and we instruct that such initiatives be expanded.

With confidence we can say that the coming year will be one of restoring peace, a year of unity and cohesion of the people, a year of more government authority, and a year for the beginning of elections to the National Assembly. This year will be a year of profound changes in all walks of life in Afghan society.

We will relentlessly and seriously enhance the role of peace-creating clergymen in the coming year and will take necessary care of Muslim needs.

Once again we sincerely invite all brothers and sisters residing in our beloved country, Afghanistan, and those Afghans who reside temporarily abroad to fight for the restoration of peace in the name of the country and in the name of everything sacred to the Muslim people of Afghanistan and humanity, and to put an end to the catastrophe of fratricide and bloodshed.

As honest sons of this homeland and as committed peoples to the homeland and people, in perceiving our historic mission to implement the sayings of almighty God, we invite all our compatriots to put aside past grievances and unite for the sake of the tears and sorrows of orphans and bereaved mothers who mourn the loss of their sons. Join us in the task of restoring peace.

We ask all people of Afghanistan, particularly you religious ulema and noble clergymen, to emphasize the need for the restoration of peace. Explain to the people the facts about the policy of national reconciliation for the sake of God's pleasure and the peace of his people. Surely you will be victorious and successful on this pious path.

Now, you esteemed ulema, having taken the trouble to come here, advise me and express your views completely freely. With the blessing of God I follow and will follow your advice. It is my desire to serve and assist the servants of Almighty God. I am confident that Almighty God will also assist us because it is tradition that Almighty God assists one when he goes and ask for the assistance of another servant of God. We do not seek revenge from any person, as Almighty God says, [words indistinct]

Nur Ahmad Nur Appointed Ambassador to Poland

LD232037 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Nur Ahmad Nur, member of Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, has been approved as ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Republic of Afghanistan to the People's Republic of Poland.

Amin Visits USSR, Signs Economic Protocol

For accounts of Deputy Prime Minister Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin's visit to Moscow, including the signing of protocols on economic and technical cooperation in communications and the postponement of payments on the USSR's loan, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 29 February SOVIET UNION Daily Report.

Bangladesh

Pre-Election Violence Continues in Dhaka 29 Feb

BK291404 Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Feb 29 (AFP)—More violence erupted here early Monday when anti-government protestors stoned vehicles and set some ablaze, police and witnesses said.

The main trouble spot was the volatile Dhaka University campus, where opposition activists and students stoned passing vehicles and set light to five of them, including a United Nations microbus and a World Bank jeep, they said.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a passing police truck on a southern campus road, but missed, they said.

A Home Ministry official contacted by telephone told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE there were sporadic incidents of arson and violence in parts of the capital, but he could not immediately give details.

An official at Dhaka's police control room said by telephone there had been several incidents in the morning, but the situation was calming down.

On Sunday, three people died and about 100 were injured when police clashed with anti-government demonstrators, opposition parties said.

The protestors complained of police use of tear gas and batons. But officials said only one person died during the troubles—and that was in a road accident—and the police were attacked with bombs and stones.

At least 16 vehicles, including government buses, were set ablaze by the protestors after the opposition alliances held separate anti-government rallies in the capital's Gulistan District. [passage omitted]

2 Killed in Dhaka Bombing

BK010802 Hong Kong AFP in English 0758 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Dhaka, March 1 (AFP)—At least two people were killed in an explosion Tuesday in a building in eastern Dhaka, police said.

A police official said the blast in an old government building apparently occurred while the explosive device was being assembled. He had no further

Schools Ordered Closed

BK010652 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The Bangladesh Government has ordered the closure of all educational institutions till Saturday [5 March]. Opposition sources say the step is taken in view of the general strike due to start on Thursday to protest against parliamentary elections. Reports say that in Dhaka, anti-poll demonstrations continued yesterday in which at least 12 persons were injured. Police and opposition activists clashed at several places. The agitators set on fire some police vehicles.

President Ershad has accused opposition of lack of unity. He maintained that the opposition leaders differ on the fundamental issues like whether the country should have a presidential or parliamentary system of government. details.

Ershad Declares 2-Day Holiday

BK010941 Hong Kong AFP in English 0848 GMT 1 Mar 88

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, March 1 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, facing mounting anti-poll violence and opposition threats to disrupt voting, has declared a two-day public holiday for Thursday's [3 March] parliamentary elections.

An official announcement late Monday said all courts, banks, factories and government offices across Bangladesh would be closed Wednesday and Thursday.

A separate announcement carried by the official BSS news agency said all educational institutions, except universities and medical colleges, would be closed for three days starting Tuesday.

The country's 21 main opposition parties, led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, have decided to boycott the polls, describing them as a "farce". They have called a 36-hour general strike beginning at dawn Wednesday and appealed to the population not to vote.

Dhaka appeared to be calm but tense Tuesday after two days of violence, including clashes between police and anti-government demonstrators Sunday which the opposition has claimed left three people dead.

Security has been tightened in the city, particularly around Dhaka University where opposition activists and students Monday damaged 16 vehicles, setting seven of them on fire, police said.

They said several hundred police late Monday raided dormitories at the university searching for bombs and suspected trouble-makers. They declined to elaborate, but campus officials said nothing substantial was found in the raid.

Witnesses said police had also been posted in the Gulistan business district, where officials said bombs were hurled at passing paramilitary and police trucks Monday, wounding two policemen.

Bombs were also lobbed onto lorries carrying ballot boxes and papers to poll centres in Dhaka's Western Zigtala District, causing extensive damage.

Police Monday recovered 32 live bombs from an empty house in east Dhaka which they said were meant for use during the elections.

In Chittagong, the country's second largest city, police raided an office of the opposition Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Party and seized 15 live bombs and bomb-making equipment and arrested one person, newspapers here said.

Police rushed to the office after an explosion there and two people injured in the blast were suspected to have been assembling bombs, they reported.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Matin Monday said about 300,000 police and paramilitary forces would be deployed to ensure peaceful elections Thursday.

Information Minister Anisul Ilam Mahmud said about 9,000 soldiers had begun to be moved to district and sub-districts but stressed that their presence would mainly serve as a deterrent to violence.

The elections come only three weeks after violence during rural elections left 85 people dead by official count in the bloodiest poll since independence. The opposition has put the death toll as high as 500.

The national poll commission said campaigning officially ends Tuesday, with voting to open Thursday 9 a.m. (0300 GMT) in 282 parliamentary constituencies and continue uninterrupted for eight hours. Municipal polls will also be held in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshashi.

Less than 900 candidates are vying for the seats. There will be no polling in 18 seats where ruling party candidates, including five government candidates, have been declared elected unopposed.

A further 30 seats, reserved for women, will be nominated by elected members once the new parliament convenes, bringing the total number of M.P.'s to 330.

Over 3,000 Opposition Workers Join Ruling Party

BK010217 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Over 3,000 leaders and workers belonging to Awami League and BAKSAL [Bangladesh Awami Krishak Sramik Awami League] of Keraniganj upazila [subdistrict] joined the Jatiya Party, expressing their support of and solidarity with the politics and programs of President Ershad. The formal joining ceremony took place at an election meeting in (Jinjira) near Dhaka yesterday.

Welcoming them, the Jatiya Party secretary general and DPM [deputy prime minister], Shah Moazzam Hussain, said the joining of large number of opposition leaders and workers has made it clear that the people have discarded the destructive and terrorist politics of the opposition.

India

Defense Budget Increased to 13,000 Crore Rupees

BK291302 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, is now presenting the general budget for 1988-89 in the Lok Sabha. The budget allocates an outlay of 28,715 crore rupees for the central plan for 1988-89 against an approved outlay of 24,622 crore rupees in the current year. This is an increase of 16.6 percent.

The budget shows an estimated deficit of 8,120 crore for the next year at the existing rate of taxation. Top priority has been given to maintaining the tempo of planned investment.

The budget provides 9,714 crore rupees for assistance to states and union territories. In order to improve the liquidity position of the states, the Reserve Bank of India is raising from tomorrow the ways and means limits by 40 percent over the limits prior to October 1986.

The gross tax revenue at existing rates is estimated at 41,985 crore rupees. After payment of 10,682 crore rupees to states and local bodies [as their] share of taxes, the net tax revenue to the center is estimated to be 31,303 crore rupees.

The finance minister said that the allocation for defense has been increased to 13,000 crores against 12,000 crores.

He said food and fertilizers subsidies are placed at 5,300 crore rupees against 4,410 crores in the current year. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denies Sri Lankan Cease-Fire Report

BK291513 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service
1430 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Statement by "official spokesman" on 29 February]

[Text] There is no truth in the agency news datelined 28 February from Colombo that the IPKF [Indian Peace-Keeping Force] has called a 48-hour cease-fire and halted operations to disarm the LTTE in Sri Lanka. The report is obviously put out by mischievous and motivated elements in Colombo. We are surprised that an international news agency of such standing should have carried a false and baseless report without caring to check and verify the report.

With regard to the LTTE offer for the so-called unconditional talks, the position of the Government of India has been made clear by the prime minister. The prime minister had, in the consultative committee meeting of parliament on 10 February, said that we would welcome the LTTE joining the democratic political process provided it lays down arms and agrees to abide by the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 29 July, 1987.

2 'Dreaded' Punjab Terrorists Killed by Police

BK271614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpt] In Chandigarh, two dreaded terrorists, Surinder Singh, alias K.C. Sharma, and Harbinder Singh, alias Bunty, were killed in an encounter with the police party this afternoon.

An official spokesman said that Surinder Singh of Amritsar, a close associate of dreaded terrorist Harjinder Singh Jinda, was wanted for his involvement in the murder of General Vaidya and the Congress-I leader, Mr Lalit Maken. He was carrying an award of 1 lakh rupees on his head. Harbinder Singh of Ludhiana was also wanted in a number of crimes including the murder of two IPS [Indian Police Service] officers in Patiala and was carrying an award of 50,000 rupees.

The spokesman said the police party from Punjab had come to Chandigarh to nab some terrorists who entered the city to eliminate senior Akali Dal leaders. He said the police party spotted three terrorists at a local bus stop.

The police party was fired upon when it challenged them. Surinder Singh was killed on the spot, while Harbinder Singh, who was seriously injured, later succumbed to his injuries. [passage omitted]

Iran

Khamene'i Vows 'Crushing Response' to Iraq

LD291911 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today warned the U.N. Security Council against entertaining the idea of any resolution failing to guarantee the just right of Iran's Muslim people. It will spell an end for all political ways to end the Iraqi-imposed war, he made it clear.

Khamene'i cautioned that the passing of any draft by the Security Council under the pressure of U.S. and other big powers will be interpreted as the "end of all political solution to the Iraqi-imposed war."

The president blasted the U.S. and certain Security Council members for taking hostile stands towards the Islamic Republic and trying to push through a new resolution which has ignored the just rights of Iranian people.

The president who also chairs the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) reiterated that the only way to end the Iraqi-imposed war is to name the Iraqi regime as the aggressor party. Otherwise, he added, Iranian people will be firmer in their belief that the only solution to the conflict is a military one.

The SDC head criticized the U.N. Security Council for being pushed around by the big powers, particularly the U.S. and cautioned that any unjust stance will tarnish the prestige of the United Nations before the world.

The Islamic Republic because of its respect for international norms has already informed Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that it would accept any just plan able to meet its righteous demands, said the president.

The SDC head said the U.S. and its allies are trying to push through the Security Council a resolution against Islamic Iran contrary to their apparent claims of peace loving in international circles.

The Islamic Republic will in no way bow to pressure or bullying of the U.S. and its allies, Khamene'i warned adding, that such attempts are in vain and are unable to disappoint Iranian officials in vindicating the denied rights of Iran's Muslim nation.

On the recent Iraqi criminal acts, President Khamene'i vowed "Iran will not allow Iraqi crimes to go unanswered, and the Baghdad regime will again taste the bitter consequences of its savage acts."

He noted that Iran's Muslim combatants always inform Iraqi people in advance of their intention of pounding Iraq's industrial and military centers, in order that local Muslims seek refuge in safer places and thus be immune from Iran's reprisal strikes.

The president saying that Iraqi attacks on Iranian hospitals indicate the Baghdad regime's savage nature promised the Iraqi regime of a crushing Iranian response. [sentence as received]

Khamene'i: Saddam, U.S. To 'Suffer Equally'

LD011616 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamane'i today vowed that Iran will surely respond to the recent crimes of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and make Saddam (Husayn) feel sorry for his savagery.

The president made it clear "in retaliating the Iraqi regime's inhuman acts we will deal such crushing blows to the Ba'thists that both Saddam and his master, the U.S., will suffer equally."

The president, speaking to a group of people who called on him to donate cash and gold ornaments worth millions of dollars for the country's war effort, reiterated that Iran has never initiated the war of cities.

"But," he noted, "whenever our enemy embarks on such barbaric crimes, we will follow up the issue until our denied rights are attained."

"We will retaliate until Saddam himself pleads or confesses to his inability to continue his criminal war of the cities," promised Khamane'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC). "Thank goodness we are quite able to have necessary means to do so," he added.

The SDC head also blasted the U.S. and certain European countries for attempting to push through the U.N. Security Council a resolution against the Islamic Republic. It is these states which have instigated Iraqi attacks on residential areas in Iran in a vain bid to force Iranian Muslim people to bow to their ideas.

President Khamene'i noted that the Islamic Republic has no enmity with Iraqi Muslims whereas Saddam's Ba'thist regime is directly fighting Iranian people which explans its attacks on densely-populated of the country.

Because of Iran's committment to Islamic principles it has always informed Iraqi people in advance of its reprisal measures in order they take refuge in safe places away from Iraq's economic, industrial and military centers, concluded the president.

USSR Envoy Summoned Over Missile Attacks

LD011706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Following the renewed missile attacks by the Zionist Iraqi regime on residential areas, Mr Gudov, the Soviet ambassador in Tehran, was summoned by Mr Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister for political affairs, for talks this afternoon.

In this meeting Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam pointed to the resumption of the Iraqi regime's attacks on residential areas and its [Iraq's] deployment of Russian missiles. In this connection, he warned the Soviet ambassador and demanded explanations from the Soviet Government. Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam said: This is not the first time that U.S. policies are being applied against our nation through the use of Soviet weapons. However, our nation, since the victory of the Islamic revolution, has shown clearly that it will not give up its sacred defense until it achieves the full realization of its full rights in the face of any kind of conspiracy or pressure.

Khamene'i Interviewed on UNSC Resolution

NC291843 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Interview with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, by an unidentified correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 29 February in Tehran—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Khamene'i. Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. As you are aware, the draft of the second UN Security Council resolution is ready and will be presented to the Security Council tomorrow. Could you please explain the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on this resolution?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The fundamental problem with the UN Security Council is that it is influenced by the great powers and therefore, in the eyes of the people of the world, it jeopardizes its international efforts. The United States made recent efforts so that a new resolution might be adopted against the Islamic Republic. The Americans worked hard and extensively on this. As you have heard, tomorrow the draft resolution will come under consideration.

What I want to say here is that, in the course of these few months—because we feel that the UN secretary-general is genuinely and sincerely seeking a solution, a political solution, and because we thought that a just means of resolving the problem is possible with the secretary general's efforts—we displayed a favorable attitude toward the UN secretary general. As the world knows, we accepted the plan which the UN secretary general presented in order to implement Resolution No 598, but Iraq rejected it.

We proved that if a just and correct plan guaranteeing the legitimate and logical wishes of the Islamic Republic of Iran is presented by an international authority, we will accept it out of respect for an international resolution and an international charter. Therefore, when the secretary general came to Tehran and when I talked with him in New York, he noted Islamic Republic's spirit of complete acquiescence and acceptance of the truth, while Iraq rejected the UN secretary general's plan and remained adamant about its rejection.

In the past few months, we adopted this position: If the draft resolution under consideration is adopted and approved because of the influence of the United States and some other powers which exert influence in the UN Security Council, undoubtedly all paths to a political settlement will be closed. Once again, we conclude with certainty that our problem with Iraq will not be resolved except through war. The United States and other powers which are hypocritically talking of an amicable settlement are, in fact, closing all avenues for an amicable rapprochement by such a step.

We have logical and acceptable reasons, which have been accepted by officials of other countries. However, in practice, in the UN Security Council and particularly among the five permanent members who have the right to veto, we feel that an inimical policy is being followed against the Islamic Republic and we find ourselves completely opposed to what they express in their statements and propaganda.

Therefore, we announce the following to the United Nations and the Security Council: We had previously accepted the UN secretary general's method of implementing Resolution No 598 and we reiterate that we stand by it. However, we will acquiesce to any sort of pressure or force from the United States or its NATO allies. If they think that with such an attitude they can make us waver in our determination to defend the legitimate rights of the Iranian nation, they are strongly mistaken. They should have no doubts that we will restore the legitimate and logical rights of the Iranian nation, and we will vanquish the enemy.

If they wish to resolve the matter through political means, there is a way. The first step is to declare that the Iraqi regime is the aggressor. This must be done. With regard to Resolution No 598, this is the sole means of reaching a solution. This is the first and only way to resolve the problem through political means. There is no other way. Any other political measure taken in the UN Security Council will certainly have just the opposite effect; it will completely block all paths to political solutions and will only make us more determined to restore the lawful rights of the Iranian nation.

[Correspondent] As you are aware, the Baghdad regime has once again started its troublemaking and has carried out acts of aggression against the residential areas of our cities. It is 7:55 [16:25 GMT] now, and when I was

coming here to interview you, we saw some houses that had been destroyed and a city hospital from which the wounded and martyred were being evacuated. These people had been martyred while they were in the hospital. As president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, what steps will be taken to stop this criminal regime [from its actions]?

[Khamene'i] We will retaliate strongly and will not let this crime go unanswered. The Iraqis have tried this before. Once again they will experience our wrath. We will not forgive Saddam and the 'Aflaqi regime for this unmanly aggression and belligerence. We will give a shattering and firm response to them. A subtle difference here is that when we attack Baghdad's military or industrial installations, we announce it 24 hours earlier so that the people of Iraq may evacuate those areas and so that innocent people in the vicinity will not be killed.

In any case, various kinds of propaganda are aimed against us and issues are presented in accordance with the wishes of the Iraqi regime. The Iraqi regime attacks the most populous areas of the city. As you just said, and it is true, a hospital has been attacked. The details of the number of martyrs and wounded are not yet known. Except for patients, nurses, and doctors, who else can there be in the hospital? This is a clear example of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's bestial and criminal policy. We shall certainly deliver a strong blow in response.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Khamene'i] I wish you success.

Further Reportage on Bombing of Tehran

Shelters Ordered Open

LD291731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the headquarters in charge of sending relief to the bombed regions has announced: All ministries, establishments, and schools in the Education Ministry are dutybound to place at the disposal of the people all their finished shelters, basements, and buildings. They should leave the doors open night and day.

On the basis of this report, this statement should be treated as an official circular and all the relevant establishments are dutybound to implement it.

16 Civilians Killed in Tehran

LD291735 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—The martyrdom toll has reached sixteen civilians so far while dozens of others were wounded in today evening's criminal Iraqi bombing of some residential areas including a hospital in Tehran.

Relief workers are busy trying to recover possible bodies and wounded from under the debris of the bombed houses.

The wounded citizens including several newborn babies at the bombed hospital were immediately transferred to various other hospitals in the capital.

Hospital Bombed; 5 Dead

LD291943 Tehran IRNA in English 1925 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Monday evening's criminal Iraqi attack on a Tehran hospital has so far claimed 5 lives while 50 others are accounted wounded, mostly pregnant women.

The hospital bombing shattered window panes in a 500-meter radius, and most of the patients and pregnant women in the hospital wards suffered serious injuries.

Several houses around the bombed hospital were damaged by 20 to 80 percent, while dozens of automobiles in the vicinity were completely destroyed.

Residents near the hospital rushed to the help of the shocked patients and assisted relief workers in pulling out victims from under the debris.

Transfer of the wounded to other hospitals in Tehran is still underway and fire-fighters are extinguishing the flames at the hospital.

Relief teams are still busy taking out the injured and bodies of martyrs from under the debris.

'Huge Explosion' in Tehran

LD292049 Tehran IRNA in English 2048 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—The sound of another huge explosion was heard here at about 20:18 hours GMT tonight. The cause of the explosion and reports on possible casualties and damage were not immediately known.

2d Explosion Reported

LD292112 Tehran IRNA in English 2109 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Another huge explosion, the second in less than an hour was heard in the Iranian capital tonight as 21:02 hours GMT. The cause of the second explosion also is still unknown. But with regard to Iraq's resumption of the war of cities, it is believed they were renewed Iraqi attacks on Tehran.

WIH Vows Revenge for Bombings

LD292128 Tehran IRNA in English 2126 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Iran's War Information Headquarters in a statement issued tonight, vowed that Iran's Muslim combatants will not sit quiet until they take revenge of the Baghdad regime for the blood of "innocent martyrs" of enemy bombings of Iranian cities.

The statement issued hours after several Iraqi bombings of Tehran today and minutes before the capital was again rocked by an explosion (at 20:28 GMT), stressed that the Iraqi regime, contrary to previous times, had resumed its attacks on Iranian cities with prior ground and preparedness [as received]. "Evidences show that this time too, attacks on Iran's civilian areas have been dictated to the Baghdad regime by the big powers," it said.

The WIH statement went on to say that on one hand, the situation in the Middle East has put Zionism and imperialism in an undesirable position and the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people has entered a new stage to the extent that it is now at the top of international issues. Therefore, there is no doubt that the backers of the Zionist regime want to distract the public attention from the ruthless massacre of the Palestinians to another point.

On the other hand, it said, as talks are heard about a draft resolution for an arms embargo against Iran at the Security Council which is part of the big powers' attempt to pressure the Islamic Republic, the Iraqi regime too has started attacks on Iran's civilian areas in coordination with these powers.

The "suspicious" visits to Baghdad of U.S. and British delegations last week could be very well interpreted within the framework of this coordination and materialisation of the Baghdad rulers' new crimes, it pointed out. Therefore, the participation of the ruling cliques in the U.S. and Britain in this new Iraqi conspiracy which will certainly be foiled, is quite evident.

Elsewhere the statement said the enemies of the Islamic Republic were wrong if they imagined that the resistant Iranian nation will give up. "They (the enemies) must know that it is long time that the Muslim nation of Iran has lost hope in international conventions and instead relies only on the almighty and its own (people's) power. It is ready to face international pressures and arms embargoes and continue its sacred defense until ultimate victory," it said.

The WIH statement once again vowed that enemy attacks on Iran's civilian quarters will not go unanswered. It said Iran's heavy artillery fire and missiles will rain on the head of the Iraqi regime's rulers as a deterrent measure until the enemy is put under total humiliation.

Red Alert, Blackout in Tehran

LD292149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2132 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] For your information, dear listeners, the FM wave 91.3 MHZ frequency is now silent and will only broadcast the sound of a siren when the situation is red and the siren is sounded to declare a red alert. We hope you will tune your radio sets to the 91.3 MHZ frequency so you can listen to the siren in an emergency.

Meanwhile, we would like to ask you, dear listeners, to observe the blackout and to turn off the lights in your homes. Thank you.

Planes Hit Residential Areas

LD010415 Tehran IRNA in English 0412 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 1, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes attacked several residential areas in Tehran for a number of times since midnight last night until early morning. A number of innocent people were martyred and wounded in these enemy attacks. Relief workers and rescue groups were continuing to transfer the wounded to the hospitals.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi last night visited the hospital bombed here by enemy yesterday where at least five people were martyred and several others including pregnant women and newborn babies were injured.

More Residential Areas Hit

NC010645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] From midnight last night until this morning, the criminal and war-seeking Iraqi regime savagely attacked more residential areas in Tehran. As a result of these mischiefs, several more of our compatriots were martyred or wounded.

Reports state that the relief forces, which began operations immediately, transferred the wounded to hospitals. Presently, relief units are at the damaged sites extending aid to our compatriots.

The Central News Unit reports that Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi inspected a hospital that was the target of the Zionist Iraqi regime's attack yesterday afternoon and observed the first-aid treatment for those wounded during the Zionist enemy's evil attack.

Baghdad Told To Evacuate

LD010933 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—The War Information Headquarters (WIH) of Iran here Tuesday called on residents of Baghdad to evacuate the city and seek shelter in the four previously identified holy cities in Iraq to protect their lives.

The WIH's reminder to the people in Baghdad was issued in the wake of Iraq's missile attacks on Iranian residential quarters Monday and Tuesday morning.

The headquarters said in an official statement here Tuesday that the ruling regime in Baghdad understands only 'the language of coercion' (the shoot-to-kill policy), and that therefore the Islamic Republic is determined to demonstrate 'who is stronger when it comes to demonstration of power.'

A War information spokesman here Tuesday assured that the ruling regime in Baghdad would soon regret its atrocities against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Missiles fired by Iraq Monday and Tuesday hit several locations including a maternity hospital in Tehran.

1 Civilian Killed

LD011042 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—One civilian was martyred and several others wounded in Iraq's air attacks on residential areas in Tehran Tuesday morning and several houses and shops were destroyed or damaged. Most of the wounded received treatment at hospitals for minor injuries and were later dismissed. Some were hospitalized.

Communique No 3,127

LD291728 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Iraqi positions and fortifications were subjected to heavy fire by Iran's Muslim combatants in the southern operational region sustaining substantial damage and casualties, said a military communique released here Monday.

The 3127th communique of the Joint Staff Command added that Iraqi patrol units in the Nahr 'Anbar region were forced to flee yesterday, incurring several casualties.

In Yebis, armoured units of Muslim combatants checked Iraqi tank activities Sunday, said the communique adding, vast parts of Iraqi positions were set afire in the western operational region as a result of heavy artillery fire of Iranian forces.

In the Mehran sector yesterday, continued the communique, activities of Iraqi heavy engineering vehicles were brought to a halt, while in the Kani-Sheykh region some enemy patrol groups were subjected to heavy fire and forced to flee by the Muslim combatants.

In the Mandali operational reigon and supply axis, it said the accurate fire of the Muslim combatants Sunday disrupted movements of Iraqi vehicles carrying munitions. Several Iraqi tanks in the Panjwin sector were subjected to the Iranian combatants' tank fire and suffered heavy damage, it added.

Meanwhile in the southern waters the Iranian Navy checked activities of some Iraqi vessels near the Al-Bakr oil platform at the northern tip of the Persian Gulf over Sunday and Monday, said the communique adding, some Iraqi copters were prevented from attacking oil rigs.

Iranian Air force planes effectively carried out patrol flights over the Persian Gulf an Gulf of Oman Sunday, providing air cover to the Navy, it added.

Some Iraqi warplanes attempted to invade the air space of Marivan, Paveh, Qasr-e Shirin, Bakhtaran, Ilam, Shoush [name as received], Shadegan, Abadan and Aghajari [name as received] as well as an Iranian oil rig in south but were forced to flee by anti-aircraft fire as well as the tactical measures by Iranian jet-fighters, it concluded.

Velayati Warns Mujahidin Leader Against U.S.

LD010646 Tehran IRNA in English 0638 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 1, IRNA—Leader of Afghanistan Islamic Association Burhanuddin Rabbani here to discuss Afghanistan issue met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday.

Rabbani appreciated Iran's stand towards the situation in Afghanistan and said that the Afghan Mujahidin aim at establishing an Islamic system which would safeguard the rights of people from all walks of life, but noted that the U.S. and the Soviet Union have conspired against the liberative struggle of the people of his country and against the coming to power of the Muslim Mujahidin.

Foreign Minister Velayati in response said that as Afghans have thus far surmounted the impediments on their way, so too, they will overcome bigger problems in the future by relying on God.

Velayati said that the Afghan people should be wary against playing into the hands of the Americans once they end the Soviet interference in their country.

He said that nationalism as an ideology for liberative struggles has never been successful in any country, and cited the example of Palestinians who have harrassed the

Zionist regime while other Palestinians inspired solely by nationalistic sentiments have never been bold enough to stand to the occupying regime of Qods.

Velayati warned the Afghan Muslim leader against the conspiracies of the foreign powers to divide Afghan Muslims, and called on them to neutralize all plots by maintaining their unity.

Further Reportage on Visit of Turkish Official

Meets With Musavi

LD271338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Yusuf Ozal, Turkish minister of state for economic affairs, met with Mr Musavi this morning and handed over a message from Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. In the meeting, which was also attended by Behzad Nabavi, minister of heavy industries, Mo'ayeri, the prime minister's political deputy, and the two countries' ambassadors, the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs presented a report to the prime minister on the progress made by the two countries' joint committees on trade and economic matters and described its results as positive.

Prime Minister Musavi conveyed his gratitude for the friendly message from Prime Minister Ozal and stressed the importance of expanding the two countries' relations.

Mr Musavi added: The activities taking place today for the purpose of expanding relations between the Islamic Republic and Turkey form the first step in strengthening the two countries' economic relations and relations among all the region's Islamic countries.

The prime minister referred to the fact that Turkey is considered to be one of the Islamic Republic's main foreign trade partners and said: Both countries have been able to maintain their trade links at an acceptable level under the most difficult economic conditions. They can undoubtedly expand their ties to a satisfactory extent in the current conditions as well.

In conclusion, the prime minister expressed his pleasure over the imminent visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran by Turkish Prime Minister Ozal. He hoped that the visit would yield positive results for the two countries.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD271739 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Yusuf Ozal met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday and discussed Tehran-Ankara ties and issues of mutual interest.

Among other topics discussed at the meeting was the Tehran-Ankara oil pipeline project and border issues between the two countries.

Velayati emphasized to the Turkish minister the importance of completing Tehran-Ankara oil pipeline which he said would be in the interest of the two countries.

In response Ozal briefed Velayati on the progress of the joint Iran-Turkey commission and expressed hope that mutual economic ties and trade exchanges between the two neighbours would notably expand this year.

The Turkish minister of state for economic affairs arrived here last week to make preparations for the visit to Iran by Prime Minister Turgut Ozal who is expected here Sunday.

Discusses Pipline With Aqazadeh

LD281526 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Yusuf Ozal met with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Sunday and discussed with him ways of implementing the Iran-Turkey oil pipeline project.

The construction of Iran-Turkey oil pipeline is among the topics to be discussed by Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal who arrived here today at the head of a top level politico-economic delegation.

Turkish News Agency Opens

LD281719 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—The office of Turkey's news agency, 'ANATOLIA' was inaugurated here today in a ceremony attended by Turkish minister of state for economic affairs Yusuf Ozal, director-general of the news agency Hufamettin Celedi and a number of Iranian officials.

In his inaugural speech, Yusuf Ozal welcomed the opening of the ANATOLIA office in Tehran and expressed hope that news relations between the ANATOLIA news agency and the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) would expand in the future. The ANATOLIA office in Tehran is the tenth office of the Turkish news agency abroad.

IRNA Interviews Turkey's Ozal on Eve of Visit

LD281007 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Ankara, Feb. 28, IRNA—Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said here Saturday that long-term cooperation between Iran and Turkey will help promote stability and development in the whole region.

Interviewed by IRNA on the eve of his three-day visit to Tehran, Ozal said one example of such cooperation is the Iran-Turkey oil pipeline adding that in his talks with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi of Iran progress is expected to be made in the project.

Premier Ozal said that in his talks with Iranian officials he will explore the existing potentials for greater Ankara-Tehran cooperation.

On Turkey's stance towards the Iraqi-imposed war, Ozal said that his country enjoys friendly relations with both Iran and Iraq adding that it has remained neutral throughout the course of the war. His country will remain neutral while hoping for an honourable and lasting solution to the war. Efforts to find a political solution should continue, he added.

Asked whether he would mediate between the two countries, Prime Minister Ozal said that his country is willing to help both sides to find a political solution. However, "these efforts could not be regarded as mediation," he added. While in Iran, he added, he will discuss the issue along with other subjects.

On recent security measures by Turkish Government on its borders with Iran, Syria and Iraq, he said that the responsibility has gradually been taken away from the gendarmerie and delegated to ground forces. The changes are merely in this context and there is nothing more to them, he stressed.

On NATO and U.S. military projects in eastern Turkey in recent years such as building airports and extending NATO bases, completion of which are said to increase U.S. capabilities and military presence, he said no joint U.S.-Turkey project was under way in eastern Turkey and no other project was being extended.

More on the same issue he added that joint U.S.-Turkey defence projects in Turkish military establishments were merely within the NATO's objectives.

On Turkey's membership at the European Common Market and its effect on his country's economic system, Premier Ozal referred to Ankara's "free economy" policy and said that once a member, Turkey will become a bridge between West and East. Furthermore, it will significantly increase foreign investments in Turkey, he added.

In reply to allegations that the free economic system policy of Ozal's government is said to have increased Turkey's dependence on West and particularly the U.S. and worsened inflation and foreign debts, Ozal said on the contrary it has made Turkey more independent. As a result of the policy Turkey has been paying its foreign debts regularly.

As for information [as received] he said that it is a major problem for the country adding that one of the reasons is rapid growth rate. He stressed that effective measures have been adopted to contain inflation in future.

Asked to evaluate cooperation among Iran, Turkey and Pakistan within the framework of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), he said the organisation is in the process of being formed and will play an effective role in trade among the members. Turkey, Ozal said, is for economic and trade cooperation with Islamic countries.

On future of Turkey-Cyprus relations and whether the recent elections have any effect, Ozal said that elections in that country was an internal issue and added in light of statements made by the new leader there is not much hope for a change in policy. On uprising of the Palestinian Muslims in occupied territories and measures of the Zionist regime Ozal condemned the actions of the Zionist regime and called for their termination.

Ozal said that Turkey has called on the Zionist regime to observe international laws. The Zionist charge d'affaires has been warned that no civilised country could accept injustice done on innocent Palestinians, he said critricizing certain governments which on the surface claim to be supporters of human rights but which are silent watchers of these crimes.

Ozal is due to arrive here later today.

Reportage on Visit of Turkish Prime Minister

Arrives for Cooperation Talks

LD281343 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal arrived here Sunday at the head of a top level political-economic delegation to participate in the sixth joint Iran-Turkey Economic Commission.

The Turkish delegation was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, a number of other political and military officials as well as foreign diplomats to Tehran.

Turgut Ozal's visit to Tehran is in response to the last June's visit to ankara by his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi.

The 35-member delegation accompanying the Turkish prime minister includes deputy ministers of foreign affairs, foreign trade and industries, twelve members of the Parliament and a number of other officials.

Among the topics to be discussed by the Turkish delegation and Iranian officials are the project on Iran-Turkey oil pipeline, removal of existing impediments in mutual trade ties, surface transportation between the two countries and border issues.

The Turkish delegation is expected to hold talks on removing current bottlenecks of Iran-Turkey economic protocol and discuss issues brought up at the joint committees for cooperation in various fields.

Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Yusuf Ozal arrived in Tehran last Tuesday to make necessary preparation for Turgut Ozal's visit and to hold talks on issues of mutual interests.

Premier Hoseyn Musavi during his last June's visit to Ankara discussed ways of implementing the two billion dollar Tehran-Ankara trade protocol and expanding bilateral trade exchanges as well as enforcement of a protocol of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) which includes Iran, Turkey and Pakistan.

Received by Prime Minister

LD281708 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28 IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi warmly received his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal and his entourage at the Mehrabad International Airport here today, saying that such contacts have a key role in strengthening Tehran-Ankara ties.

Premier Musavi noted that Turkey and Iran are to exchange views on regional and international issues which he said would be of great importance for promoting peace and understanding in the region.

The Islamic Republic attaches special importance to its commercial ties with the Muslim state of Turkey, Musavi said, adding that political and economic ties among Muslim countries would lessen their needs for the superpowers.

In response, the Turkish premier said that most of his foreign visits have been to Tehran which indicates the high level of relations between the two countries.

The Turkish prime minister said that he would discuss with Iranian officials various aspects of Tehran-Ankara ties and ways of expanding mutual relations.

Ozal expressed hope that his talks in Iran would help avert the regional crisis and added, he was carrying the Turkish Muslims' message of friendship and respect for their Iranian brethren.

It is the third official visit to the Islamic republic by the Turkish prime minister.

Addresses Dinner

TA282224 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has said that the war between Iran and Iraq constitutes a serious threat to regional peace and security. He added that therefore, Turkey is ready to exert every possible effort—as it has done so in the past—to eliminate misunderstandings that stem from a lack of dialogue and consultations in the region and to create an atmosphere of security.

Ozal, who is on an official visit in Iran, addressed the dinner Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi hosted in his honor in Tehran this evening. Ahmet Cetin Yeni and Coskun Tarzan from the Turkish Radio and Television News Center report that Ozal said the war between Iran and Iraq, two neighboring countries, which has been continuing for the last 8 years, continues to be a source of profound concern and sadness. Ozal expressed the wish that this destructive war between two Islamic neighboring countries end as soon as possible.

Pointing out that a just and honorable solution can be reached through conciliatory dialogue between the two sides and not through forced and involuntary methods, Ozal added: Turkey, as a regional country, is closely following recent developments in the Middle East, which are a cause for concern for everyone, and believes that the Palestinian issue is the basis of the Middle East conflict. We believe that a just and lasting peace in the region can be reached only if the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including their rights to self determination, are recognized and if Israel withdraws from the Arab territories it has been occupying since 1967. The Palestinian resistance which has been continuing in the occupied territories for the last 2 months has once more shown the importance of and urgency for peace in the region. We believe the time has come for all parties concerned to shoulder their responsibilities.

Ozal added that the the cruelty and oppression of the innocent people in (?Palestine) cannot be endorsed by any civilized country. He said: The double standard applied to the issue by various countries that defend human rights is ridiculous.

Ozal expressed the belief that the long desired peace and stability in Lebanon can only be achieved through national conciliation. He added that the Afghan people should be granted the right to self-determination and that the Afghan refugees should voluntarily and peacefully return to their countries. Ozal said that undoubtedly the entire world welcomes the humanitarian aid extended by Pakistan and Iran to the Afghan refugees within this framework.

Pointing out that the importance Turkey attaches to maintaining good relations with all its neighbors is common knowledge, Ozal said:

Turkey has always favored the solution of the Turkish-Greek conflicts within the framework of the existing agreements and through a dialogue and negotiations. It has also favored opening the path to productive cooperation. I held important talks with Greek Prime Minister Papandreou in Switzerland last January on this very issue. We sincerely want this dialogue to continue and be successful. It is also evident that we have always favored a solution to our problems with Bulgaria through meaningful dialogue. We expect the problems between Turkey and Bulgaria, including humanitarian ones, to be solved within a reasonable timeframe through the negotiations we have initiated with the protocol signed in Belgrade. Undoubtedly, the close interest shown by the international community and the Islamic countries in the issue has played a significant role in reaching this important stage, namely, Bulgaria's official acceptance of negotiating with us. We hope that this interest will continue unabated in the future as well.

Ozal said that a lasting and speedy solution to the Cyprus solution can be reached through the establishment of a bizonal, bicommunal, independent, and nonaligned, federal state. He added that Turkey expected third countries to treat the Turkish Cypriot community on the island under equal conditions. Ozal said: We (?shall be) particularly happy about the development of economic relations between Iran and the TRNC.

Also speaking at the dinner, Musavi said that Turkey and Iran have historic ties and goodneighborly relations. Noting that bilateral ties [words indistinct]. Referring to the Iran-Iraq war, Musavi said that Iraq was aggressive and that it should be punished for starting the war. [passage indistinct]

Ozal will be received by the Iranian president and the assembly speaker tomorrow. He will return to Turkey on 1 March.

1st Round of Talks With Musavi

LD290815 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Visiting Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal started the first round of talks with his Iranian counterpart Premier Hoseyn Musavi here Sunday evening.

Issues discussed included bilateral relations, regional developments, Afghanistan and the Iraqi-imposed-war.

The Turkish prime minister heading a 35-member delegation arrived here Sunday afternoon, for a three-day visit, his third, to attend a sixth joint Iran-Turkey Economic Commission.

Ozal and his accompanying delegation Sunday night attended a dinner banquet given in their honour by Prime Minister Musavi.

Premier Musavi in a speech called for the unity of Muslim nations in order to promote Islam and make Muslims independent of the superpowers.

Musavi said that Premier Ozal's third visit to Tehran is indicative of the interest of Iran and Turkey in strengthening mutual ties. He also hoped that creation of an Islamic common market paves the way for greater unity of Muslims in their confrontation with the big powers and their agents.

On the Iraqi-imposed war Musavi said the Iraqi Government had invaded the Islamic Republic in a bid to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that if it had recognized and respected international agreements the hostile confrontation would have been prevented.

However, he continued, irresponsible stances of the international circles at the early days of the aggression encouraged the Iraqi regime to breach all its international obligations. Musavi stressed that if international bodies were sincere in their avowed concern about the situation they would have insisted on the administration of justice in dealing with the situation and the need to identify the aggressor.

He said because the world bodies have thus far refused to expressly identify the government in Baghdad as the aggressor party in the conflict the Iranians suspect the sincerity of those bodies and none the less their efforts for resolving the disputes between the Islamic Republic and the ruling regime in Iraq.

Prime Minister Musavi stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to assert its international rights in relation with the conflict and see to it that the ruling regime in Iraq and its head is punished so that no such acts may be repeated in the future. He also emphasised that Iran respects the right of free navigation in international waters, that it is against attacks on commercial ships and that it supports any initiative for keeping the superpowers out of the Persian Gulf.

The Turkish prime minister expressed pleasure to be visiting Tehran for the third time in his office and noted that regular exchange visits between the officials of the two countries had helped improve bilateral relations.

Ozal expressed hope that a projected Iran-Turkey oil pipeline would help promote bilateral economic relations.

2d Round of Talks Begins

LD291049 Tehran IRNA in English 1047 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Prime Ministers of Turkey and Iran held second round of talks here Monday morning calling for removal of obstacles on the way of further expansion of mutual relations.

During the two-hour meeting Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi of Iran told the the visiting Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of Turkey that Iran-Turkey friendly relations will help the cause of peace in the region and that similar relations could exist with other countries of the region.

On upward trend of Tehran-Ankara relations Premier Musavi said political and economic ups and downs should not hinder the trend.

On the Iraqi-imposed war he said Iran wants nothing but administration of justice and believes that all countries should help this be fulfilled.

More on the same issue he told the Turkish premier that the Iraqi regime has attacked Iranian civilian areas several times in the past 24 hours and has officially admitted this. Contrary to Iran's wishes and its efforts to prevent widening the scope of the war, it has to defend itself and give a proper response to Iraq, sad the prime minister.

On Palestinian uprising Musavi said that the problems could be solved through continued struggle of the Palestinians and also assistance of Muslim nations. As long as the cancerous tumour—the Zionist regime—is not removed from the region the plight of the Palestinian people will remain unsolved.

Refering to Afghanistan he said that the Afghan revolution has now entered a new phase and dismisses any initiative for legitimising the present government of Afghanistan.

On Persian Gulf security Musavi said that peace will return to the water way if the superpowers leave the Persian Gulf. He reiterated that the Persian Gulf states themselves could maintain Persian Gulf security and enjoy good relations, and noted that it is not in the best interest of any government to get itself unduly involved with Saddam Husayn.

Ozal told his Iranian counterpart that his government respects Iran's views on the Iraqi-imposed war and expressed hope that the war will end in an honourable manner.

On Turkey's stance towards Afghanistan he pledged Turkey's support for efforts of Iran and Pakistan in solving the crisis.

In the second round of talks attended by a number of officials from both countries both sides discussed ways of cooperation in building oil and natural gas pipeline and also building of oil and trade facilities on borders of the two countries. They also exchanged views on border cooperation, and on political and security affairs, and agreed on the need to broaden cooperation in the future.

Meets With Montazeri

LD291824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Musavi and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal this afternoon met and conferred with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom.

In this meeting, the deputy leader referred to the past history of Islam in Turkey and the greatness and grandeur that country enjoyed during the Ottoman period, saying: We do not support the methods used by the Ottoman Government, yet despite what happened at that time, Turkey was the center of Islam, and that was an unwelcome and bitter fact to the East and West. Therefore, they did all they could to weaken the Islamic culture in that country.

The deputy leader added: If the Turkish Government wishes to safeguard its independence and former grandeur, it should pay greater respect to the religious feelings of its majority group and should make arrangements for Islamic culture to be strengthened among the youths, university staff, students, and other strata. Turkey should pay greater attention to the ulema and members of the clergy, so that it may become invulnerable in the face of the ambitions of the East and the West.

Regarding the Turkish policy toward Palestine and the usurper Israel, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: Our expectation and the Muslim Turkish nation's expectation of the Turkish Government is that the it should completely support the legitimate struggles of the Muslim Palestinian nation and condemn the Zionists' occupation of the Islamic country of Palestine and their cruelty to the Muslim Palestinian people.

Regarding Turkey's policy on the imposed war, he said: We express our thanks for Turkey's undertakings and its expression of friendship toward the Islamic Revolution in Iran. However, this point should be borne in mind: Our main aim in the revolution was that we did not wish to be under the hegemony of the East or the West. We said that we are an independent nation and have carried out a revolution based on Islam and the Koran in order to be independent. However, the East and the West, who were against such a doctrine, imposed the war upon us. Unfortunately, the Persian Gulf states did not pay attention and placed huge amounts of dollars and facilities at the disposal of Saddam, enabling him to continue the war.

Otherwise, we were not and are not in favor of the war, and have no desire to take one foot of Iraqi territory or of other neighboring countries. We would also welcome an honorable peace. However, I should add that if those who call on us to make peace with Saddam would, in one voice, announce the aggressor to the world and condemn him, then the first obstacle toward peace would have been solved, because the world knows what to do with an aggressor.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri added: If Saddam is fortified and is revived, he will show no mercy toward any Islamic countries, including Turkey, and will continue his aggression.

At the end, Grand Ayatolah Montazeri reiterated the importance of Islam and its role in Turkey's independence and called on the Turkish Government to pay attention to Islamic principles and Islamic history, culture, and script, and to make the Islamic language, script, and culture, as in the past, official, strong, and powerful. It should also fully support the Turkish-speaking Muslims in Eastern and Western Europe.

Addressing the Turkish prime minister, he said: I expect Your Excellency, a believing Muslim, to take steps to strengthen Islam in your country. You should pay attention to the fact that positions and ranks are worthless, unless, according to the words of Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, one can uphold a right by making use of these positions or can refute a falsehood.

Meets With Khamene'i

LD011006 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) Hojjat ol-Eslam Ali Khamene'i received Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal here Tuesday.

In the meeting, the Turkish premier expressed satisfaction with his third visit to Tehran and said the situation in the capital is far much better than ever before despite the more than seven-year Iraq-Iran war.

He also termed his talks with his Iranian counterpart Husayn Musavi 'positive', adding that his country welcomes the further consolidation and expansion of its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On a proposed imposition of arms embargo on Iran by the U.N. Security Council, Ozal said that such arms embargo would be of no effect.

In response, President Khamene'i thanked the Turkish premier for his friendly and sincere feelings and reiterated the Iranian people's amicable feelings towards their Turkish brethren.

The president said that since coming to power of Ozal as Turkish prime minister great progress has been made for promotion of Tehran-Ankara ties.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, Khamene'i said that because the Islamic revolution has spread panic among the big powers they instigated the Baghdad regime to impose a war on Iran. The big powers, he said, are now putting pressure on the Iranian people in order to make them accept an unjust peace.

Commenting on the passing of the draft of a second resolution by the Security Council calling for arms embargo on Iran, the president described efforts of the U.S. and other big powers to impose such sanctions on Iran as being principally hostile and prompted by ill will and malice.

The U.S. and other big powers have again instigated the Iraqi regime to resume its war of the cities in a vain bid to force the Islamic Republic to accept a ceasefire because the U.S. is well aware that continuation of Iranian military moves will undountedly entail the ovethrow of Saddam Husayn, he said.

Khamene'i stressed that despite the calculations of the big powers the Iranian nation is determined to safeguard its independence at all cost.

Referring to the uprising of Palestinian Muslims in the occupied Palestine, Khamene'i said that the few years of relative peace and comfort for the Zionist regime seem to be coming to an end.

Turgut Ozal and his entourage wound up a three-day visit to Tehran Tuesday.

Letter on Pipeline Signed

LD010919 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal left here for Ankara at the conclusion of a three-day official visit and talks with Iranian officials.

Before Ozal's departure, a protocol of the 6th Tehran-Ankara economic commission was signed by Turkish Minsiter of State for Economic Affairs Yusuf Ozal and Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi.

Meanwhile, a letter of understanding for construction of Iran-Turkey oil pipeline was signed by Yusuf Ozal and Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

Besharati's Pre-Sermon Speech at Friday Prayers

LD291949 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Pre-sermon speech delivered by Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati on 26 February in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Praise to the lofty leader of the Islamic revolution, the hope of the world oppressed, the commander-in-chief, our lofty sage, and grand source of reference for world Shi'ites, His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni. [crowd cheers] Praise to the pure souls of all martyrs. [passage omitted]

This week's events include the return of the imam to Qom after 15 years. Among the very auspicious events this week about which I must congratulate you—because you brought this victory forth by following the recommendations of his excellency the imam and by supporting our fighters behind the fronts—is the abject retreat from the Persian Gulf by the forces of the United States and its allies. These days are glorious ones.

After 6 or 7 months following the victorious "Karbala'-5" operations, the United States began to realize the Iraqi regime's state of stupor, and attempted to save the Iraqi regime from death by creating an unfavorable atmosphere. This poisonous atmosphere resulted in the approval of Resolution No 598, in which the warring sides were asked—without any mention of our being the victim in the war and the recipient of mental and material damage—to observe a cease-fire and other requests.

We are also enduring a war of embassies along with this poisonous atmosphere. In Britain and France, false accusations have been made against your brothers and sons who are defending our honor and integrity in bunkers abroad. They have closed our embassies while we have witnessed the most tragic and painful incidents in Mecca, where the Saudi regime dragged around 400 good Muslims in the dust and blood inside the safe sanctuary of divinity. Meanwhile, the United States and its allies have made an extensive, active, and unprecedented military appearance in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted] They said they had not arrived to fish, but had come to intervene in the region on the pretext of defending the Ba'thist regime in Iraq. However, they received such a telling blow from our fighters and were defeated so completely that they would not have dared to indulge in such childish policies had they learned their lesson from this defeat. [crowd cheers]

They retreated, but you should not feel very happy because they announced that only part of their fleet would retreat. However, I tell you, the God-fearing ummah and the selfless fighters, as well as the ever-present-on-the scene people, these people have been defeated and are retreating. Up to the day before yesterday [24 February], more than 10 aircraft carriers, destroyers, and torpedo launchers [as heard] had left the region. [passage omitted]

You supported the fighters, those who have no other goal except to defend the sublime Islamic values, and now you can clearly see the consequences of the superpowers' defeat. Those who had created such a hue and cry against us in the world and had created such a storm and aggression against us have now become dejected and desperate. A large number of very advanced Stinger missiles fell into our hands, those super-modern missiles. The United States could not believe that those missiles had fallen into our hands. However, when this became 100 percent clear to them, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the former U.S. defense secretary, ordered his aircraft and helicopters not to get close to Iranian positions.

Do you know what that means? It means that their aircraft carriers are worthless. It means that their warships and frigates are worthless. [shouts of "God is great" and "Khomeyni is the leader"] It was very, very important that we achieved such a great military and political victory this year. If people are to understand the import of this matter, it would be fitting for them to celebrate until the Iranian new year, to be happy and joyous, and to thank God for all His graces and blessings for inflicting such degradation and disgrace on the superpowers at the hands of the Muslims, who are supported by no one, who forced them to leave the region defeated.

In order that this great and welcome victory might not have a lasting effect on our people, in the midst of all this they said they would impose an arms embargo on Iran. In our view, these rumors and propaganda are spread to make us fear the arms embargo. We think that this is just propaganda. On the other hand, if this arms embargo is imposed on us, it will have no effect because we have been suffering from an arms embargo for 9 years. The superpowers have not given us weapons for the past 9 years. [passage omitted]

Our great nation, which is standing on its own feet and which insists on acting in accordance with its duties and responsibilities, will not be happy if supported by the superpowers, nor will it be worried and frightened as the result of their opposition. We never counted on their support. Now if they decide to continue to oppose us—and we hope to God that they will never be on our side—it will have no effect.

On the other hand, due to the possibility that we might be subjected to an arms embargo some day, we have made all the necessary preparations. Let me clearly tell you here: Although I am an official in charge of political matters, political and military issues are nevertheless connected, and let me assure you, dear people, that never in our history has our country been so self-sufficient in arms and weapons. We have even purchased and stored a huge quantity of all the different types of weapons and military equipment we need. Let them impose an arms embargo on us; it will have no effect. [shouts of "God is great"]

On the other hand, who does not know that such embargoes are never very serious? We have been living under an embargo for the past 9 years, but we have been able to obtain our spare parts and military requirements. You superpowers do not believe in your own work and in your own resolutions. We are fighting single-handedly and we will obtain our military equipment even if we have to drag it out of your throats. We said we obtained the most advanced U.S. weapons, these very advanced

Stinger missiles, due to God's assistance and the vigilance of our dear fighters. There are also some independent countries around the world that are not followers of the United States. They act independently. Therefore, they should rest assured that it will have no effect on us.

Despite all these points and analyses, if the United States again tries to instigate a new move forcing the Security Council to impose an arms embargo on us, what would its goal be? We believe that with an arms embargo the United States wishes to weaken our relations with various countries and force us to have relations with the United States. The valiant and proud Iranian people know that we have clearly seen the United States' filthy hands before, during, and after the victory of the Islamic revolution, in this war, and in all the plots hatched against the Islamic Republic.

Our people have repeatedly said, and our officials have repeatedly made this clear, that so long as the United States does not give up its crimes, it would not be possible for us to have normal relations with it. If the United States feels that by such actions we will be forced to move toward its camp, it is a very futile and very childish thought, this idea that under such conditions our nation would be forced to establish relations with our most hostile enemy. So long as the present conditions prevail we will not establish relations with the United States, and if the United States imposes an arms embargo on us we will even advise our children and future generations not to have relations with the United States. [shouts of "God is great"]

There is another motive that I want to mention here—I would like to assure you, Muslim people, that this is another gain for the Islamic revolution, and I congratulate you for it—and it is the announcement of Soviet tropps' withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Soviet forces, which attacked the Islamic country of Afghanistan more than 8 years ago, imposed a puppet Marxist government on this Muslim nation; caused the massacre of about 1 million Afghan Muslims and wounded several million; destroyed villages, towns, and bridges; and resorted to every means to stabilize the Marxist regime of Afghanistan. However, the Soviet forces failed. The Soviet forces were defeated by a handful of Afghan Muslims and have declared that they will retreat. This is another victory.

As announced many times before, we believe the Soviet forces should pull out of the Islamic country of Afghanistan immediately and unconditionally. In Afghanistan, a Muslim government, nonaligned and supported by all Afghan Muslims—be it the mujahidin or the refugees who live in Iran and Pakistan—should be established and should enjoy the support of the entire nation of Afghanistan and have good relations with all its neighbors. We have said many times, and reiterate here again, that we have 760-km common border with Afghanistan and cannot remain indifferent to events in our neighboring country.

For the same reason, we have frequently discussed clearly and openly with Pakistan, the Soviet Union, and others our position that the occupying forces should leave Afghanistan. The Marxist and Communist Government of Afghanistan should have no role in the future political destiny of Afghanistan. [shouts of approval] We cannot remain complacent and indifferent to events in our neighboring country.

We have always said we want to live in peace, friendship, and tranquillity with our neighbors. We have extended a hand of friendship toward all countries, particularly toward our neighboring countries, from the start of the Islamic revolution's victory. Today we enjoy very good relations with the majority of these countries. We will host the Turkish prime minister in 2 days. He is coming to Tehran at the invitation of his excellency Prime Minister Musavi. We will also host the honorable prime minister of Pakistan in March.

Our general policy is to strengthen relations with those countries that want to maintain good ties with us. We have said repeatedly that we wish to improve our ties with the Persian Gulf countries, too. We have repeatedly said that it would be impossible to restore security in the Persian Gulf except through the regional countries. We have often said, and repeat here again, that this policy, this policy that has no basis in the thinking and desires of the region's people, this idea of inviting outside forces to come to restore security, is wrong.

We saw that the same individuals who invited the foreign forces to come to the region to restore security realized that these forces failed to create security despite all their might. Even Lloyds Insurance Company announced that since the arrival of U.S. forces the frequency of attacks on merchant ships and oil tankers has more than doubled. This was contrary to their objective. You say you have come to maintain security; if you had come for the sake of security you should have at least halved the number of attacks.

This proves that other countries do not feel sorry for these nations; they are looking out for their own interests. The nations of the region should realize that only they are the ones feeling any regrets. It is they themselves who should safeguard the region's security. We all need security. However, Persian Gulf security is indivisable. It should be safe either for everyone or for no one. [shouts of approval]

Of course, these issues have been raised many times before, and in these days when we are paying greater attention to the motives behind the retreat of U.S. forces and its allies, we again pass this message and slogan to the countries of the region, asking them to come forward to unite. We would be able to restore security in this strategic region. However, you should realize that any talk about resolving the problem will fail, every plan will fail, unless it takes into account our problems. All theories, plans, and resolutions will fail, for we have

2,500 kms of water as a border in the south. We have a dominating role in all issues, developments, relations, and equations. All observers, be it in the region or outside, should note this fact.

The next issue is the issue of the pilgrimage to Mecca. We have repeatedly said, and we do so once again, that after the victory of the Islamic Republic, the Islamic Republic gave a new meaning to the hajj issue—because our revolution is a new message, a fresh thought, and a new concept—so that under the imam's leadership this new revolutionary concept, based upon genuine Islamic precepts, can provide fresh and thirst-quenching water to all those who have thirsted for it throughout history. Now everyone has turned toward this Islam. We have demonstrated what the proper hajj is. [passage omitted]

An wrongly performed hajj, as desired by the United States, is something we shun. We believe the hajj should be performed in the way it was performed by the prophet of God and his illustrious companions. Therefore, we are firmly resolved to embark on the hajj ceremonies in full force and, God willing, we will take part in the hajj ceremonies next year because this is a duty. [passage omitted]

God willing, we will go on the hajj pilgrimage this year. As we have not asked for anyone's permission to defend our territorial integrity, our honor, and the dignity of our country, we also will not ask for anyone's permission for a glorious, revolutionary, valuable, and dignified hajj. [shouts of "God is great"] [passage omitted]

According to the explicit text of the glorious Koran, anyone who goes there must have security, security for all. Even wild beasts should be secure there. Security does not simply mean that no one beats up another person in Abu Sufyan bazaar or one's pocket is not picked. This security is much greater, much more exalted and much more extensive than such things. It is intellectual security. The people should have security to express their views, to convey their message. [passage omitted]

Why have Saudi rulers forgotten all these things and are merely thinking about the security of U.S. interests, believing that security means that people should not express an opinion, that they should have nothing to say against Israel? Are you Israelis? They want no one to mention the United States. Are you Americans? What is happening? What kind of ideology is this? What kind of presentation of Islam is this?

In history, Abraham went to destroy the Ka'bah, but he took God's wrath and was destroyed. [passage omitted] There were others, including Abu Sufyan, who also took steps against the Ka'bah. He prevented the prophet of God from carrying out hajj ceremonies in the 6th year of the Hejira. Have the Saudi rulers adopted the path of Abu Sufyan in that they wish to create obstacles in the path of Iranian pilgrims? For the sake of safeguarding their principles, our people have been fighting for 7 years, 5 months, and 10 days with full force. Although the list of their martyrs is a long one, although they have suffered material losses, they have not given up their principles. We will not retreat so easily. I gave only a brief talk here. At the appropriate time two officials will talk in greater detail about this issue. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

1 Killed, 3 Injured in Peshawar Bomb Blast

BK010815 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] One person was killed and three others injured in a bomb blast which took place in the circuit house in Peshawar this morning. The injured have been admitted to the Lady Reading Hospital. The NWFP chief minister, Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, visited the hospital, inquired about the health of the injured, and directed the hospital staff to provide all possible medical facilities to the injured.

Efforts Made To Avert Geneva Talks Collapse

BK281040 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 28 Feb 88

[By Sami Zubeiri: "Pakistani Efforts Continue To Save Crucial Geneva Talks]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 28 (AFP)—A special closed session of Pakistan's parliament was being held Sunday to endorse government policy in an effort to avert the collapse of crucial talks on Afghanistan resuming in Geneva Wednesday, official sources said.

Prime Minister Muhammed Khan Junejo had already briefed the Cabinet on "all aspects" of the Afghan problem, including the possible implications of signing or delaying an accord with the Kabul government at the talks, they said.

Faced with the dilemma of whether or not to sign the United Nations-sponsored draft accord, Mr Junejo has also convened an unprecedented roundtable conference with the country's extra-parliamentary opposition parties to develop a "national consensus", the official sources said.

The latest moves come soon after a series of visits by Pakistani diplomats and the Soviet announcement of a phased 10-month troop withdrawal to begin May 15 if the accord were signed by March 15.

But the Soviet Union has rejected the Afghan resistance demand—backed by Pakistan—that the current Kabul government be removed to facilitate the return of the estimated five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

There are reports that some friendly nations have advised Pakistan not to do anything that might give Moscow an excuse to reverse its withdrawal decision.

Pakistan and the United States have different priorities, with Washington saying its prime objective is a Soviet withdrawal.

Discord has also surfaced between Washington and the resistance in their approaches and in their perceptions of a post-Soviet withdrawal Afghanistan.

The leader of the Pakistani delegation in Geneva will be Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani and he said he was "cautiously optimistic". Mr Noorani said Islamabad did not want to delay by a single day a Soviet withdrawal, but he stressed that Pakistan's prime interest was "twinfold".

"No less important for Pakistan is the creation of circumstances whereby the three million refugees (in Pakistan) can be persuaded to go back. Without peace and security it would be impossible to expect refugees to even think of going back," he said.

As Islamabad prepared for Wednesday's Geneva talks, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd sent a special emissary here for a lengthy meeting Saturday with resistance chief Muhammad Yunis Khalis, who has warned the Pakistani opposition and Washington against pressing for the signing of the accord.

The resistance has refused to share power with the Kabul communists and has warned of a "bloody civil war" if the withdrawal were not accompanied by the establishment of the mujahidin transitional government announced last week.

Saudi envoy Prince Saud al-Turki delivered a letter from King Fahd, who has been aiding the Afghan resistance for the past eight years. Informed sources said the king counselled moderation and flexibibity.

There have been reports of a recent thaw in Soviet-Saudi relations after contacts between Moscow and Riyadh.

Informed sources here said efforts were being made on different sides to soften the mujahidin's stance so the issue of an interim government in Kabul could be pursued after the Soviet withdrawal.

Pakistan was expected to push for an increased role for a U.N. withdrawal monitoring force to help in this, analysts here said.

There have been suggestions that Indian troops could help monitor the withdrawal, but Pakistan has rejected any Indian role in peace efforts.

Former foreign minister Agha Shahi said: "No troops can go except under the auspices of the United Nations...". Any Indian involvement at this stage would be "counter-productive", he warned.

Cabinet Views Afghan Issue; Ratifies Iran Pact

BK271145 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The Federal Cabinet met in Rawalpindi today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. The Cabinet held intensive discussions on the Afghanistan issue preparatory to the debate in the parliament scheduled to be held tomorrow. The Cabinet was also briefed about the recent consultations with the leaders of People's Republic of China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and the United States by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani.

The Cabinet ratified a protocol for the establishment of a joint border commission between the governments of Pakistan and Iran.

It also discussed a number of other issues pertaining to various ministries and divisions submitted to it for its consideration.

The Cabinet meeting was attended by the federal ministers and ministers of state.

Prime Minister Views Next Afghan Talks

BK291539 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo has said the next round of proximity talks on Afghanistan beginning in Geneva on Wednesday [2 March] is important and may be decisive. Talking informally to newsmen in Lahore this evening, he said the minister of state for foreign affairs and the foreign secretary have been briefed on the main topics to be raised at the Geneva talks.

Answering a question, the prime minister said that earlier the main issue was the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which has almost been decided. He pointed out that Pakistan wants to see the establishment of a government in Afghanistan according to the wishes of the Afghan people, a Soviet troop withdrawal, and the return of the Afghan people to their homeland in an atmosphere of peace, dignity, and honor. He said that parliament discussed the Afghan problem yesterday, and he wanted to consult political parties and the people before deciding on the correct decision in the supreme national interest.

Answering a question about the visit of the Indian foreign secretary, the prime minister said India has been informed that our minister of state for foreign affairs and the foreign secretary have gone to Geneva, and that is why the visit of Indian foreign secretary will have to take place after their return.

Curfew Reimposed in Karachi Area 28 Feb

BK290254 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 fEB 88

[Text] Curfew has been reimposed in Shah Faisal Colony police station limits in Karachi since 2300 [1800 GMT] last night until further notice. A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi-East says this step has been taken after sporadic incidents of violence in various areas of Shah Faisal Colony, especially in Block III and IV and (Wing Town).

This is a sequel to the incident that occurred on Saturday [27 February] in which a school teacher was killed. The press note also says that many persons were arrested, and the situation was brought under control before evening. The press note adds that the curfew has been imposed to avoid any further untoward incident.

Sri Lanka

AFP: Tamils Attempt Unilateral Negotiations

BK271220 Hong Kong AFP in English 1036 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Feb 27 (AFP)—Tamil rebels have been talking secretly to certain members of the Sri Lankan Government, but any attempt to circumvent India would not be accepted, India's top diplomat said here Saturday.

"No unilateral decision by any party can be suddenly imposed on India, which has lost nearly 400 soldiers," Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit told reporters here. But he said Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene was not involved in any negotiations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"We are taken aback," he said, referring to the alleged talks between the dominant Tamil separatist group and certain members of the Sri Lankan Government whom he did not identify.

The LTTE has rejected the July Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact and is waging a guerrilla war against some 50,000 Indian troops. New Delhi has admitted losing more than 380 soldiers and killing over 1,300 suspected LTTE guerrillas.

Mr. Dixit said proposals "being brandied about" in the talks amounted to "scaling down" Tamil aspirations. "Some of the proposals are extraordinary," said Mr. Dixit, an architect of the peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

He said the LTTE had been told it would have to "vacate" the island's east, but could keep arms in the north and run the local administration there without facing any elections. "If this is true, Sri Lanka and the LTTE should jointly demand that the IPKF should withdraw," the diplomat added.

There was no immediate reaction from the Sri Lankan Government. But Mr. Dixit, who met Mr. Jayewardene Friday, said both New Delhi and Colombo were committed to the peace pact.

Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told parliament Friday that the LTTE was having informal talks with "Indians in Colombo and the Sri Lankan Government," but did not give details.

Mr. Dixit said all parties involved in the agreement, including India, would have to agree to end the fighting between Indian troops and the LTTE.

The Indian Army, deployed in Sri Lanka under the accord, wrested control of the northern Jaffna peninsula from the LTTE in October, pushing the Tigers to the east where they are now active. [passage omitted]

Indian Envoy on Reported Contacts

BK271708 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J. N. Dixit, has said India has been taken aback by reports about certain Sri Lankan Government leaders having extensive discussions with the LTTE on some extraordinary proposals which would erode the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. These would adversely affect the future of the Tamils in the island.

Speaking to newsmen in Colombo today, Mr Dixit said that according to reports, the proposals provide that LTTE will give up all claims to the Eastern Province and move to the north. In return, it would be allowed to set up an interim administration there for 3 to 5 years without elections.

Mr Dixit said that both President Jayewardene and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, remain firmly committed to the broad parameters of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. The high commissioner disclosed that an emissary of LTTE had been meeting him also besides contacting Sri Lankan Government leaders. Even today, a telegram was received calling for a 3-day cease-fire by the PKF.

Pointing out that two members of the Mothers Front in the eastern Batticaloa are on a fast until death on the same demand, Mr Dixit said he could not help recalling that the very same technique was used by the LTTE men when they were not able to cope to the situation and chose the oldest and the weakest to fast on their behalf. Mr Dixit warned that the LTTE's violent agitational tactics would not succeed. The Mothers Front had no justification to indulge in this blackmail instigated by the LTTE. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, 3 PKF personnel were killed and 18 injured in a landmine blast in the Eastern Province this morning. The blast occurred when a truck carrying them ran over a mine planted by the LTTE in Muttur area near Trincomalee.

Indian Envoy Denies 'Cease-Fire' Report
BK290902 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, has denied reports that the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] has declared a 48-hour cease-fire in Sri Lanka from midnight tonight. The high commissioner told AFP that the operations by the PKF will continue.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0844 GMT on 29 February in comments attributed to Dixit adds: "'This is speculative reporting,' he said, referring to reports that military operations had been halted for 48 hours to enable the LTTE to accept an Indo-Sri Lankan pace accord. Mr Dixit told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the Indian Army was 'obviously' going ahead with its operations in the island's north and east to disarm the LTTE, the biggest of six militant Tamil groups."]